



George Washington University Law School
Scholarly Commons

Nota Bene, 2003

Nota Bene, 2000s

9-22-2003

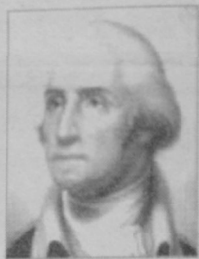
Nota Bene, September 22, 2003

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.law.gwu.edu/nota_bene_2003

Recommended Citation

George Washington University Law School, 14 Nota Bene 2 (2003)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Nota Bene, 2000s at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nota Bene, 2003 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact spagel@law.gwu.edu.



You Might Have Mail

Computing Administrators Say The Switch To A New Email System Was Necessary. Students Say Their Needs Aren't Met.

By FRANK LATTUCA
Staff Writer

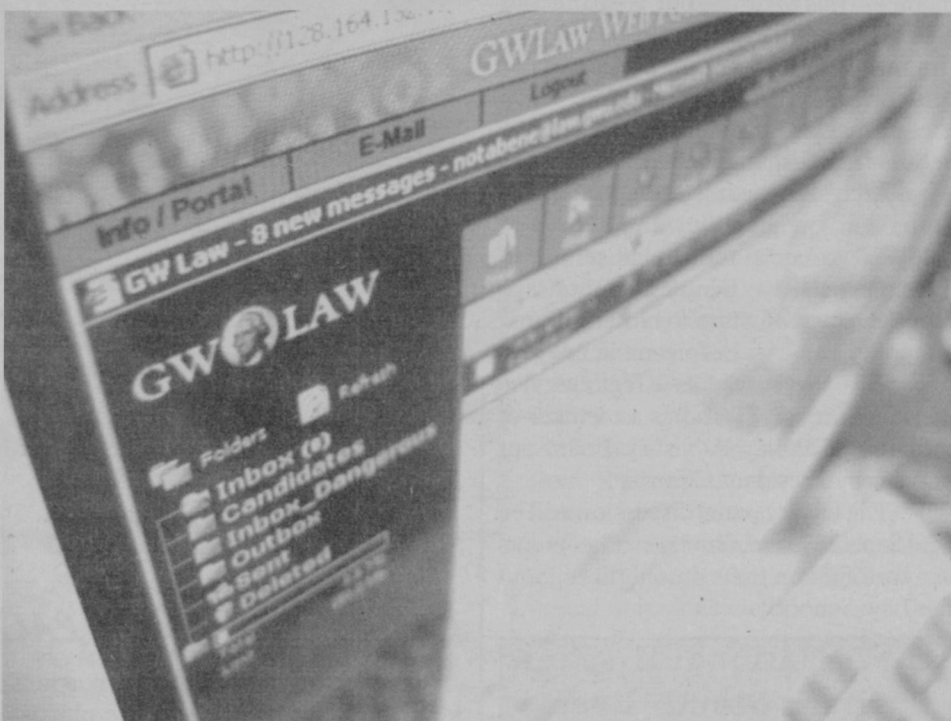
The Law School launched a new email system this summer with a variety of new features, including new options and folders for "spam" and incoming mail identified as "dangerous."

But student reaction has been less than positive, and many have voiced complaints about the changes. Within hours of the system's launch, students began criticizing the system on the "public forum" board of the Law School's web portal. Weeks later, students are still posting messages chronicling problems and concerns. Administrators say the change was immediately necessary and will yield long-term benefits.

Many question the reliability and functionality of the program and wondering why the switch was made at all.

"You write a message more than 10 words long and the system times out. You cannot open messages half the time. You cannot get on the network at least half the time." These are some of the comments posted by Bradley Parr, a 3L who would prefer to have the older system still in place. Parr feels that the old system was more reliable than the newly installed one.

Christina Hughes, a 2L, said the email system is a disappointment. "I for one, have had access to far better and



Briscoe/Nota Bene

more secure technology for far less in tuition dollars elsewhere," posts Hughes.

Information Services Specialist Mike Briggs said the change in systems became necessary when the old system's designers stopped supporting it, and he named a variety of factors that have contributed to the system's early sluggishness.

Briggs said that one of the many reasons for the switch was that the company that owned the old system had

stopped supporting it and was not going to be releasing any updates or security patches. "We needed to find a new email system because the old system was not being updated," he explained.

The new system has a large market base, so its company is frequently updating it - twice since it was installed at the Law School. Briggs also points out that the old company recommended the new

See E-MAIL page 2

Dean Young "Leans Toward" Unchanged Graduation Date

By BRANDON BRISCOE
Editor-in-Chief

Student Bar Association President Corrie Westbrook said Dean Michael Young acknowledged last week that he "was leaning against" moving the Law School's graduation date up one week this year in response to student comments that were significantly against the proposal.

Attempts to confirm with several administrators whether a decision had been made were unsuccessful as of press time Saturday evening.

Young has proposed moving the graduation ceremony up one week from its Memorial Day weekend time slot to take place on the same weekend as the University's ceremonies. The move would have allowed students to participate in the University ceremony on the Ellipse and would have enabled more faculty to attend the non-holiday ceremony.

Students complained, however, that many travel arrangements had already been made. Other letters obtained by the *Nota Bene* argued that students receiving GPA-based honors deserved the later ceremony that would allow the the completion of grade calculations.

Still others feared the Law School would no longer invite a high-profile speaker to headline its graduation ceremony in addition to the speaker at the University's ceremony.

Young asked for student input in a email sent to all students Sept. 10. The request followed a meeting of the SBA attended by Young in which representatives complained that he had not sought student comments on the matter. Young said he had repeatedly tried to send a message earlier in the summer.

Several letters seen by *Nota Bene* staffers were vitriolic in expressing their opposition to the proposal.

Other students have posted messages to the web portal's "public forum," including one student who complained that she had already scheduled her wedding based on the previously published graduation date.

SBA leaders hope a final decision will be made shortly to allow students to make travel plans and to allow the SBA's Commencement Committee to begin planning the traditional celebratory events.

Evening Students Balk At Friday Classes

By CRISTINA VON SPIEGELFELD
Staff Writer

For most evening students, Friday night classes have been a permanent fixture on their schedule. But 2L evening students voted this fall to not have classes on Friday, opting for a four-day schedule instead. A vote revealed that a majority of the evening students wanted the four-day schedule although students' motivations for wanting this change varied greatly.

Despite the vote, administrators said they were reluctant to make any changes to the schedule for a number of reasons. The faculty Curriculum Committee is set to consider the issue later this fall.

For many, family time was a primary concern. "Personally, I have a six-month-old daughter that I am anxious to spend time with. Currently, being home only three nights a week is hard enough," said Kevin Baumert, 2L evening student. "I know I speak for many of the evening

students with families in saying that there is a tremendous difference between two and three nights per week at home with family."

Leslie Sowers, also a 2L evening student, said the extra day gave her more time for work. "I typically use my Fridays to catch up at work for all the other days of the week that I've had to rush out to go to class," said Sowers. "Without this catch-up day, I would probably be required to come into work over the weekend, which I already spend... reading for the next week's class."

Commuting is also a concern for many evening law students. For some, eliminating a day of commuting outweighs the benefits of Friday night classes. For students with commutes of up to three hours, fatigue is a major factor. Other students are concerned about the extra costs of a Friday evening trip to school, including Metro fare and gasoline. Parking on Friday evenings can also be difficult.

Tom Fredrichs, President of the

Evening Law Student Association (ELSA) and one of the principle proponents of the new plan, said the world has changed over the last 20 years. While employers have increased the demands on employees, family life has become more time-stressed especially for those with children. "Employers have developed flexible work schedules and child care centers to help employees meet all their responsibilities," Fredrichs said. "In view of the changes outside academia, it's time to consider changes within the school to help students, especially those employed full time or with children, or both, to meet the demands made on their time."

The SBA, led by President Corrie Westbrook and Evening Vice President Lisa Johnson, also expressed interest in helping the ELSA make the change to the evening schedule permanent. ELSA and SBA are working to present information to the Curriculum Committee for consideration in changing the basic evening

See CLASSES page 4

News

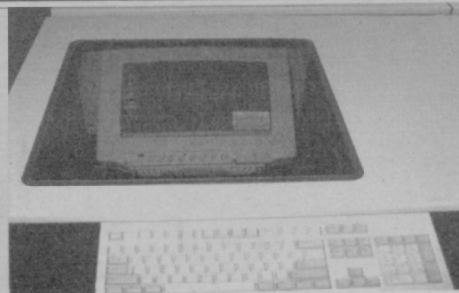
Evening Students can make the switch to daytime earlier - page 4.

Election Special - page 5.

Features

Student exercises Second Amendment restraint in ride-along - page 12.

Manatee-hater back - page 10.



Opinions

The library computers are unacceptably slow - page 14.

Readers respond to proposed date change - page 15.

News

Former U.S. Ambassador to Speak at Law School

HLSA Lands Speaker to Headline Hispanic Heritage Month Activities

By BRANDON BRISCOE
Editor-in-Chief

The former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras will address the Law School next month, highlighting a series of activities organized by the Hispanic Law Student Association to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hon. Cresencio "Chris" Arcos, who now serves as the director of international affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, will speak Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. in the Moot Court room.

HLSA Co-President Abby Garcia said the month of events is designed to promote Hispanic culture in the Law School community. "It's to celebrate the different Hispanic heritage that we have and to recognize Hispanic leadership in the United States," she said.

This is the first year HLSA has attempted to participate in the nationally recognized month of celebration that began under the Clinton administration and extends from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, Garcia explained.

In addition to the speech, the group will host a faculty panel Sept. 25 with Professors Alberto Benitez and Arturo Carrillo discussing human rights after 9/11. A recruitment panel of Hispanic lawyers will also advise students, and the group will also hold a fundraiser at Baja Fresh, Garcia said. HLSA has also posted fliers throughout the Law School to spotlight important Hispanic leaders.

Leonor Velazquez, who serves as HLSA's other co-president, advised law students not to miss the Arcos speech. "He's definitely worth seeing, so we would like to have a good turn-out," she said, noting that his recent presentation at Harvard drew much praise from participants.

Garcia said the organization of about 60 members used networking to

convince Arcos to speak – the same networking the group hopes to help law students take advantage of professionally. She added that students need not be Hispanic to participate.

"We invite everyone to join," Garica explained. "Many of our new members this year are not Hispanic but have lived in Hispanic countries or participated in Hispanic activities as undergrads. I think it's good to learn about other cultures in general – not just because it's Hispanic per se."

Arcos is scheduled to speak about Latinos in foreign policy. In addition to a 25-year career in the foreign service in which he retired as Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement in 1995, Arcos has also served as a regional vice president for AT&T and as a member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Board appointed by President Clinton.

The faculty panel discussion will be held Sept. 25th, and details on other events can be found on fliers posted throughout the Law School.

HLSA National Hispanic Heritage Month Events

Sept. 25 - Faculty Panel Discussion on Human Rights Post 9/11

Oct. 6 - Hon. Chris Arcos discusses Latinos in Foreign Policy 2 p.m. Moot Court Room.

Correction - In our last issue, the unattributed quote on page 5 ("They Said It") was made by Anthony Hart, 1L evening student



HLSA Co-Presidents Leonor Velazquez (left) and Abby Garcia discuss upcoming events for National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Email Upgrades Coming, Some Fixes Already Here

E-MAIL FROM PAGE 1

software because it offered the potential for an easy transition from the old system. Through its many conversion utilities, the new software made adapting old user accounts easier than it would have been with another program.

Another consideration taken into account was the ever-expanding user base. "As you may know, the law school provides you with email for life," said Briggs. This means more and more users on the system with each passing year. This software is "much more capable of scaling to support a larger user base," he said.

Despite the benefits, Briggs said a variety of factors have conspired to slow the system. For example, the new email system is

"dependant on our database server for managing transactions," said Briggs. "We are in the process of implementing a much faster database server."

Worms and viruses have also taken their toll on the network, he said. Among those that have affected law students was one attached to an innocuous-looking email from admin@law.gwu.edu. This was not an email from a legitimate law school source but an email virus designed to mimic the addresses in the server system. Because of this deceptive capacity, that virus was dubbed "Mimail" by the Norton software company.

Briggs also noted that part of the initial problems have been due to the need to "reindex" users' mailboxes when they log in for the first time after the change. "Reindexing a 100 Megabyte inbox can put a strain on even the most powerful servers," said Briggs.

For students concerned that the spam folder might be blocking mail they actually want or not blocking enough of the junk mail Computer Applications Specialist Daniel Diggs recommends that students check the filters for the spam folder. Diggs said that they are not set as

"aggressively" as they could be. He advises students who want to keep out more potentially distracting junk email to set their filter on a more aggressive setting. To do this, students should go to the "options and styles" scroll-down menu at the top of the email window. There they will see several options for adjusting email settings.

Some students reported receiving pop-up advertisements upon opening the

email window. Diggs said this is not due to the school's server but is in fact due to the user's computer. Often, students will unknowingly download software that enables pop-up windows. The Law School's computer services department is making software available

that will clean out this type of advertising software. This software is called Ad-aware 6.0 from Lavasoft. To download the software, students should go to the web portal and click the "library services" tab. After opening that page, students can click on the "BurnsHelp" tab. The programs that are currently available to students will be listed as a series of hyperlinks. Downloading the Ad-aware program should take only a few minutes.

Other students question whether the new system is truly more functional than the old system. SBA Secretary Debbie Motyka is troubled by the lack of distribution lists on the new system. "It's very frustrating," says Motyka. "Not only did we lose all our old distribution lists, but we are unable to make new ones." This means that new 1L section reps will be unable to make section mailing lists within the context of the system. Briggs said there was an attempt to recreate all of the old features in the new program, but "unfortunately, this was not possible. The good news is that the new email vendor has distribution lists on its

See E-Mail Next Page

Nota Bene

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor

Brandon Briscoe
Alan Tauber

News Editor
Features Editor
Opinion Editor

Alexander Saunders
Erik Baptist
Chris McClintock

Staff

Gualberto Garcia Jones
Rodney Zwahlen
Jane Yanovsky
Frank Lattuca
Samia Naseem
Nick Dietz
Anthony Marcavage

Pete Bromaghim
Sarah Hensley
Elizabeth Austern
Jon Backenstose
Jeremy Medevoy
Eric Koester
Cristina von Spiegel

Nota Bene is published bi-weekly by the students of The George Washington University Law School. Its office is located in the basement at 2008 G Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20052, (202) 676-3879.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The George Washington University Law School or Nota Bene. Board Editorials represent the views of a majority of the Editorial Board. Opinion columns are reflective of the views of the column's author(s). In articles, the source of information is identified, and an attempt is made to present a balanced view. In letters, the veracity of statements is strictly the responsibility of the author(s).

Nota Bene will consider for publication all articles, letters, announcements, cartoons or opinion pieces submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before publication. Nota Bene strives to treat all submissions in a fair and uniform manner. However, due to space constraints, submissions may be omitted and Nota Bene will make reasonable efforts to print them in a later issue.

NEWS

...411...

NEWS FROM THE GW COMMUNITY

Joining Church and State

The 50th Annual Red Mass will be celebrated by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick at St. Matthew's Cathedral (1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW) Sun., Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. The Mass is traditionally attended by Justices of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and other high-ranking government officials. Law students are welcome to attend but should plan to arrive an hour early.

First Monday

The Supreme Court begins the October 2003 term Mon., Oct. 6. The first arguments of the term are scheduled for Tues., Oct. 7. Scheduled for argument that day is the case of *Virginia v. Maryland*, an original jurisdiction case regarding states' rights over the Potomac River.

E-MAIL CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

list of features to be added."

A more technical complaint by some users concerns the blocking of IP port 25, which limits the ability of users to end-run the new system and utilize a mail client like Microsoft Outlook instead. Students are upset that the new system limits their ability to make mail client choices for themselves. In response to this issue, Briggs noted that the old system had the same limitation.

"The reason port 25 is blocked on the student network is that at any given time there are dozens of student computers infected with one of the email viruses," says Briggs. "These infected machines would send email viruses outside of our network and could result in our network being blacklisted. Which basically means having other systems treat all of our email as spam."

Briggs said he applauds the system change and believes that the new system lends itself to being upgraded and improved regularly.

"There are many features that many people would like to have in an email

system. We had a choice of using an email system that had a zero percent chance of being upgraded or of using one that is being upgraded several times a year," Briggs said.

In addition to the software upgrades, Briggs and the IT team are working on a number of other improvements that will help the system's performance and functionality. In addition to the constant updates, the email system is on a new server, and the school has contacted the vendor and asked them to "help create a plan for using clusters of email servers to make the system more scalable." Clustering, which was not available with the old system, is a large project that would require academic downtime like winter or summer breaks.

Briggs expects the problems and the complaints to diminish with time. "As we have time to refine the system, most of the problems will go away, and some already have. I think that any new system will cause a certain percentage of users to feel some frustration simply because it is different."

SBA Beat**Dean Young talks Graduation; LLMs finally receive official representation in the SBA**

By ALAN TAUBER
Managing Editor

Dean Michael Young made a rare appearance at the last SBA meeting, discussing a variety of topics from construction details to computer problems. But his discussion of the issues surrounding the upcoming graduation received the most attention.

Young opened the discussion by thanking student leaders for all their hard work before launching into a short "State of the School" speech. He began by commenting on the state of construction, noting that construction was "almost finished." He predicted that the landscaping would be finished within three weeks.

Among the changes, Young noted that all of the faculty have moved out of Old Main and now have offices in Burns, the E Building and Stuart Hall. In addition, Stuart provides nine new classrooms, and there are new offices for the CDO, Records Office and Student Affairs.

Looking to the future, Young mentioned that plans include taking over the rest of the Lisner building in the summer of 2006 and that the second floor will be opened up to Stuart and Lisner next summer.

Discussing the new incoming 1L class, Young quipped that they are "smarter than you. Better looking, too."

As soon as Young opened the floor to questions, the possible graduation date change was first up for discussion. Young said that he has looked at the possibility of changing the date for a few years. In explaining the rationale behind the idea, Young mentioned that the earlier date would increase the ability of students to participate in University activities, such as the party hosted at Union Station and the main ceremony on the Ellipse.

Two potential disadvantages were whether or not the law school would want its own speaker in the afternoon, and that the annual awards ceremony would be truncated or eliminated entirely. He also said that students would not receive actual diplomas. As to the speaker issue, Young seemed to indicate that it could go either way, depending on student in-

put.

Another advantage Young mentioned was having an extra week before bar prep, as BarBri classes tend to start the week after the current graduation date. He also indicated that moving the date away from Memorial Day would encourage more faculty to attend.

"I spend a considerable amount of capital strong-arming faculty to attend." He was quick to add that faculty want to attend, but that giving up their Memorial Day weekend got old year after year.

When asked when the decision would be finalized, Young said that he would make his decision by the end of the month. SBA President Corrie Westbrook said that Young was nearing a decision. According to Westbrook, Young is "leaning against" moving the date this year based on the negative reaction he has received from students. This report could not be confirmed as of press time.

When asked about the e-mail system, Young said that the problem would be solved "soon, we hope." He indicated that it would be about a month before the system goes faster.

After Young left the meeting, the SBA moved on to its regular agenda. The first major issue raised regarded LLM representation. As noted in the last edition of the SBA Beat, there is some confusion regarding whether LLMs were entitled to representation. The Board voted to allow one representative for this year.

The Evening Law Students Association has floated the idea of eliminating Friday evening classes for 2Ls. According to the report, Dean Roger Trangsrud was not enamored with the idea. He didn't say no, but he was clearly inclined against the idea.

Other items of interest: Locker sales went well, generating \$12,600 for the SBA. The new GPA curve (3.2) goes into effect this semester. Judiciary Committee Chairman Jason Karasik hopes to have a list of appointees to the Constitution Committee for confirmation at the next meeting. The next SBA meeting will be Sept. 23.

New Policy Gives Evening Students More Options

By JON BACKENSTOSE
Staff Writer

Due to a new policy implemented by Academic Affairs, part-time evening students wishing to make the transition to full-time day status can now do so after their first semester.

Under the older policy, part-time evening students were not permitted to transfer to full-time status until after their second semester. This left them with eight credit hours which had to be taken during summer sessions in order to meet their credit hour and residency requirements and graduate in three years. With the new policy, students who transfer to full-time status after their first semester will only have to make up four credits during summer sessions.

Roger Trangsrud, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and chief architect of the new policy, noted that the reason students were not previously al-

lowed to transfer after their first semester was mainly due to administrative and logistical concerns. All law students must take a set of required courses as part of their degree requirements. Incoming law students are divided into sections which are then used to schedule the required classes. Allowing students to change sections would be difficult to accommodate as some sections would become too large to fit in available classrooms.

The solution, noted David Johnson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and counselor for many students, will result in several firsts for the Law School including the first Criminal Law and Property classes not organized around a section. This will also be the first time Property will be offered in the summer and it will also be the first four-credit summer course.

Academic Affairs is concerned, however, that the summer Property course would be too intense if offered

within the standard summer session as it would require four two-hour classes per week. In order to lessen the impact, Academic Affairs is planning a longer term for a summer Property class, likely a term of seven weeks to reduce the weekly load to three two-hour classes.

Although adding courses, especially in the summer, can cause problems in locating professors available to teach them, Trangsrud noted that instructors for the two new courses have already been lined up. Professor Cottrol is slated to teach Criminal Law in the Spring of 2004 and Professor Tuttle will teach Property in the Summer of 2004.

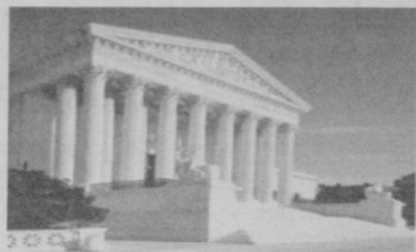
Under this plan, the first semester for all 1L evening students will be the same as before. After their first semester, evening students transferring to full-time status will take the non-section Criminal Law class in addition to the same required evening classes taken by their old evening section, resulting in a 13 credit workload.

These students will then take the summer Property class of four credits. After this special Summer class, these students will be caught up, in terms of residency points, to full-time students who have completed their first two semesters. The only required course these students will still be lacking would be Constitutional Law I, which they would take with their prior evening class in the fall semester of their second year.

Thus, students who transfer after one semester to full-time will experience gradually increasing workloads during the school year of 10 credits, 13 credits, and 14-15 credits thereafter. This should be very attractive to the students, said Trangsrud, as it will allow them to ease into a full-time workload. The limit of 13 credits for the second semester along with the four credit summer requirement help protect students transferring under the new policy by ensuring that they meet

See POLICY page 5

NEWS



Court Watch

COMPILED BY GUALBERTO GARCIA JONES

Estrada Withdraws, Not Hispanic Enough

Miguel Estrada, the first Hispanic nominee to the DC Court of appeals, withdrew his name from consideration more than two years after being nominated by President Bush. Mr. Estrada had been forced to wait 16 months for a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The final vote on his nomination was subsequently filibustered for the next eight months in an unprecedented effort led by Sens. Schumer, Clinton, Kennedy that finally ended in his recent withdrawal from consideration.

Under Senate Rule XXII, one Senator may create a filibuster by holding the floor. Unless 60 Senators vote to end the filibuster, in a procedure known as cloture, a single Senator could stop all other votes in the Senate, effectively grinding the Senate to a halt. However, under current Senate rules the filibuster may be conducted without actually holding the floor. This removes the political pressure on the filibusterers because they are not seen as frustrating the functioning of the Senate. The practical effect of this is that the requirement that judicial nominations have the "Advice and Consent of the Senate" has been raised from a simple majority of 51 votes to a super-majority of 60.

Senate critics of Miguel Estrada say he is too conservative, and point to the fact that during his Senate hearings he was unwilling to disclose internal memos written by him while he was an attorney at the Solicitor General's Office under the

Clinton Administration. One of the most vocal opponents of Mr. Estrada, NY Senator Schumer defended the filibuster saying, "The Founding Fathers did not want the Senate to be a rubber stamp."

Hispanic Democrats in the House also criticized Estrada. "Being Hispanic for us means much more than having a surname," said New Jersey Rep. Bob Menendez, a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. "It means having some relationship with the reality of what it is to live in this country as a Hispanic American." Mr. Estrada emigrated from Honduras as a teenager without speaking English and with no apparent prospects. Eventually he graduated from Harvard Law School.

Supporters of Mr. Estrada pointed to the fact that up to four former Democrats who supervised his work in the Justice Department had vouched for his integrity and qualifications. They also noted that never before had a judicial nominee been required to disclose intra-agency private memos.

Republicans insisted that the reason for the Democratic filibuster was that allowing Mr. Estrada's nomination to stand would have allowed Republicans to increase their appeal among the growing Hispanic voting base and weaken the Democrats' racial trump card.

Escape Attempt Falls Through

Ben N. Rogozensky's plans for escape from custody literally played into Judge J. Antonio Delcampo's hands on Sep. 8. Rogozensky, who was being tried

for giving false information and obstructing officers, and was also accused of a hit-and-run and a car theft in New Jersey, fell through the roof and into Judge Delcampo's chambers after having climbed up through the roof of a bathroom and across the clerk's office.

Court security officials were notified and captured the ill-fated fugitive in the hallway.

Justice Department Considers Charges against ABC

Federal authorities are said to be considering charging an ABC News crew with smuggling uranium into the US.

On the eve of the second year anniversary of September 11, and while investigating US border controls, an ABC News crew smuggled harmless depleted uranium into the United States. The uranium was purchased in Indonesia, and was being smuggled into the US at Los Angeles International Airport.

"In our view, we do not believe we are in violation of the law because it was not our intent to defraud the U.S. government, to smuggle in contraband or to avoid duties," ABC News V.P. Jeffrey Schneider said. "It was to test the system."

Meanwhile, Homeland Security Department spokesman Dennis Murphy commented that "We believe ABC News may have broken the law, and we are pursuing the appropriate course of action. It is a question whether or not journalists should be breaking the law in the pursuit of a news story. It's not right for a reporter

to rob a bank to prove the bank has lax security."

The decision to press charges rests with Attorney General Ashcroft.

Family of 9/11 victim sues Saddam Hussein

Despite repeated statements issued by various members of President Bush's cabinet this week denying any knowledge of direct involvement by Saddam Hussein with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the family of John O'Neill has sued Iraq for \$1 billion in damages.

John O'Neill, who died in the attack on the World Trade Center, was the FBI's late counterterrorism chief. His family alleges that Iraq had the necessary contact with al-Qaida, and had provided them with freedom to operate training bases in Iraq, and even supported their operations in Afghanistan through the work of Baathist intelligence agents.

Some of the proof relied upon by the petitioners is information gathered within the last months, and include numerous accounts by Iraqi intelligence officials, defectors, and al-Qaida taken prisoner.

"Documents recently found in the bombed headquarters of the Mukhabarat, Iraq's intelligence service, reveal that an al-Qaida envoy was invited clandestinely to Baghdad in March 1998," the lawsuit states. "The documents reveal that the purpose of the meeting was to establish a relationship between Baghdad and al-Qaida based on their mutual hatred of American and Saudi Arabia."

CLASSES FROM PAGE 1

class schedule permanently. Professor Todd Peterson, chairman of the Curriculum Committee, has said the issue will be on their agenda early this fall. If the committee is persuaded, it will be forwarded to the faculty for a vote.

Dean Roger Transgrud said that there are some difficulties in scheduling the necessary ten or 11 credits of classes into four evenings while retaining an average of 18 evening classes per semester. Transgrud says that evening students are already limited by their schedule and having no Friday night classes would lead to even fewer class options. He also noted that although evening students outnumber day students in Friday night classes, a significant number of day students who attend evening classes will be impacted by the evening students' vote.

Apart from some skills-based classes, Transgrud also pointed out that two hours is the maximum amount of time that professors are prepared to teach and the maximum amount of time that a class can usually stay productive.

Transgrud explained that it would be unrealistic or unreasonable, considering the limitations and conflicts, to continue such a schedule for upper level electives.

"I have taught in the evening for many years and have had Friday night classes," he said. "While it's not an ideal situation to have Friday night classes, it's

better than the alternative with classes that run past eight in the evening. However, should the faculty determine that the change in scheduling is warranted, I would be happy make that happen."

The Law School has used a basic evening schedule of two hours of classes for five days a week for roughly twenty years. Before the change, an evening student had class from Monday to Thursday their first year, with Friday classes factoring into the schedule in their second year.

Fredrichs argues that this is a major reason for the reluctance to remove Friday classes. He said that the old schedule served the school for such a long time that a change will need to overcome tradition.

The scheduling conflicts pointed out by Transgrud also need to be addressed creatively. Fredrichs is aware that the current 2L evening schedule poses potential time conflicts with two-credit evening courses.

For example, the 2L evening fall schedule includes two three-credit hour classes scheduled as two consecutive 75 minute classes twice a week. He suggests that a possible option would be to schedule two-credit evening courses as 50 minute sessions on two nights. This way, a student could take both a two-credit (50 minute session) and a three-credit (75 minute session) course during the shorter

week without having to come in on alternate Fridays.

One professor feels that it remains to be seen whether a "late shift" (7:30-8:45 p.m.) class works out to the satisfaction of students and teachers. He notes that "everyone must be very tired by the end of that session. Perhaps the professor or the students' evaluations of that class will produce some useful insights into that question, although a sample of one class is too small to make anyone confident about generalizations."

Said Fredrichs, "The most important factor in making the change may be the willingness to innovate and find out what works better than the old schedule."

"Giving an extra evening per week to students with families provides so much benefit that we should be willing to look for a way to make it the rule rather than the exception. When you think critically about how to live a balanced life, the costs of change are too small and the benefits too great to pass by the chance to make this improvement."

Fredrichs noted that the professors were "wonderfully responsive" to the requests by students. "With their support, the administration, particularly Dean Transgrud, gave a critical look at a new way to schedule the classes, and came up with some real innovations that are working well," Fredrichs said. He recognizes that ELSA's ideal goal to get consensus

on a new schedule for the Spring 2004 semester is ambitious considering that registration takes place in late October. Representatives of ELSA hope that a limited application of the class-free Friday concept can be worked out after registration.

It's been proposed that once class schedules have been selected, a clearinghouse can be developed to contact people taking combinations of classes that are well suited to rearranging. Class members could be contacted and a poll taken to determine if they want to make a change.

"Student input to the change provides the most compelling evidence we can present to the faculty and administration that change is needed. Students bear the major portion of the costs of the old schedule, and stand to gain the most from a new student friendly schedule," says Fredrichs.

Dean Renee DeVigne said in cases like this, there is generally an effort to address student concerns. "The dialogue includes all interested and affected parties, and all pros and cons are explored in depth before a decision is reached, she said.

"Ultimately the goal is to provide the best curriculum and schedule that is possible while taking into account any relevant ABA guidelines and other pedagogical concerns."

ELECTION SPECIAL

VOTERS' GUIDE 2003

SBA elections for 1L and LLM reps will be held Wed., Sept. 24. 1L voting will take place in class. LLMs may vote at the Information Desk on the first floor of Stockton Hall.

Section 21

Patrick Lavelle



Howdy Section 21,

My name is Patrick Lavelle and I want to be your SBA representative. I don't have a formal agenda, like establishing weekly wiffle ball tournaments or adding a "Nacho Guy" to accompany the "Hot Dog Lady" in University Yard ...but if these are what you want then I will try my hardest to make them happen.

The bottom line is, your concerns and ideas are important to me, even if you don't think they are. If you feel there's a need for longer library hours or a simplified honor pledge system, just look for the little guy from Kentucky. I'm easy to talk to and always have time to listen.

I want to be our rep. because I like to plan and participate, but more importantly, it's because I want us all to enjoy our time here together.

Sally Parker



I'm a 1L evening student working full-time as a patent secretary. I first became interested in a representative position when I heard that 1L evening students did not have a representative last year. I have seen the disadvantages a lack of representation can have where I work and this summer petitioned for staff departmental meetings. These meetings have made all the difference in our work environment and helped improve the functioning of the IP group.

I'm a great listener and welcome new ideas and perspectives. As a 1L evening student class representative I will make sure the 1L evening students opinions are heard. While we are all extremely busy, it is important that we are included in the decisions made by the SBA. I work at a law firm and go to law school, but I'm also more than that. I'm a wife, a sister, an avid reader, a fan of live music, a yoga practitioner and a Francophile. It's important for evening students to realize they can go to school, work, raise a family and have some fun through it all.

Christina Pederson



Work hard, play hard. That was the motto that got me into GW and I think it could be the reason I would be a great representative for the part time students. I know that so far I have found a good balance of school, work, and "play time" which ranges from hanging out with friends at galleries to playing hockey every weekend.

After attending GW as an undergrad and having lived in DC for 6 years, I have decided that there are so many diverse interests it is difficult to find one candidate that will encompass all of the various concerns for groups. At the same time, I know I could do a great job of attempting to best represent the diversity that the part time students bring to GW Law, bringing in the balance I am sure each of us will need to maintain in order to study hard and have fun. I can bring in knowledge of this city and the experiences that our section will be experiencing to a forum that will address everything from academic to social concerns.

Ryan Mooney

I would like to start by introducing myself to the students who I have not yet met. My name is Ryan Mooney and I am a 1L from Rockville, Maryland. I decided to run for the 1L Representative position because I am very excited about the opportunities available to the members of this year's entering class and I want to be active in creating an environment in which each of us can find success.



Our class is a special one. The school is evolving around us and as technological advances, larger class sizes, and other changes present us with both opportunities and challenges, it is important that the 1L class has a strong channel of communication with the administration. I will endeavor to

provide that link so that our collective voice is always heard.

Like many in the evening class, I am a working student and I understand the challenges of balancing academics and a career. Because we have many responsibilities outside of the classroom, it is critical that the evening division has a strong advocate for the issues that define our law school experience in ways different from other students. While remaining a resource for all 1L students,

I will dedicate myself to working with the faculty and administration to address the unique needs of evening students with the goal of making our experience at George Washington Law School as rich and rewarding as possible.

Eric Koester

Two of the most important needs for evening students are communication and flexibility. We want to know what is going on and have some amount of flexibility incorporating it into our schedules. Those are the areas I will focus as the 1L Evening SBA representative.

Communication. I will continue to use the 1L Evening Student Email Distribution list to selectively inform our classes of key events and opportunities that will appeal specifically to us. This and other regular communication will help our class develop into a tight-knit community.

Flexibility. Time management and creative scheduling are keys for evening students. As a result, it is extremely im-

portant for evening students to have a voice that is thinking about how to incorporate evening student's schedules into the mix. Whether it is academic, career, or social events, I plan to make sure to ask the question, "What about evening students?" If everyone is flexible, we can make it work for all of us.

I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of the SBA. I have been actively involved as an undergraduate and want that to continue into my life in the law school. It is important that our experience outside of the classroom be just as valuable as our time in it. I plan to listen, learn, and enjoy the next three years. I hope, as a part of the SBA, I can help you enjoy your experience just a little more.



POLICY FROM PAGE 3

the ABA residency requirements.

Transferring students will have some room to customize their schedules, as they will have the option of taking Property Law in the fall semester of their second year. They would thus take Property Law in the evening with their last required evening class, Constitutional Law I. However, they would still need to take four summer credits to meet the residency requirements. Johnson noted that students may find that taking Property in their second fall semester is beneficial, as this would allow the summer requirement to be used for classes such as outside

placement or study abroad.

Hoping that evening students will take advantage of the new policy, Dean Johnson gave a special presentation on the new policy to the 1L evening law students during orientation. Additionally, a memorandum on the new policy by Renee DeVigne, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, was included in the orientation information provided to the incoming 1L class. Another presentation as a reminder will be given to the 1L evening students prior to their October registration, said Trangsrud.

The new policy was motivated, at

least in part, by concerns voiced during Dean Trangsrud's meetings with students over the years. Trangsrud notes that the school wants students to have as much flexibility to transfer both from part-time to full-time as well as full-time to part-time.

This could be significant, as one student who wished to remain anonymous noted. This student received an offer for an internship opportunity during his first summer in law school but had to pass it up to accommodate a course load of five credits. Had the student been able to take advantage of the new policy, with the re-

duced summer requirement of four credits over two summers, he would have been able to accept the internship with all the benefits that would have provided him.

Johnson was enthusiastic about the new policy, noting that it is likely that many unforeseen benefits of the new policy will emerge as it is exercised by students. It is a new tool augmenting the existing options available to the students, he said. For those students who do not wish to take advantage of the new policy, all of the old procedures allowing transfer later in their academic curriculum are unchanged.

ELECTION SPECIAL

Section 11

Cristina
Antelo

I am running for SBA representative, because like all of you, I have a great deal of free time and thought taking complaints and becoming a social event coordinator would be the most productive use of my time!

But, in all seriousness, I want very much to have the opportunity to represent my 1L classmates in Section 11 because I want to become an integral part of our class and want to serve you each the very best I can.

As the SBA has an important role in several school affairs, including budgetary decisions for all of our extra curricular organizations, serving as liaisons with the faculty, and working to resolve our problems and concerns, it is important that our representative take this role not only seriously but with a great deal of enthusiasm.

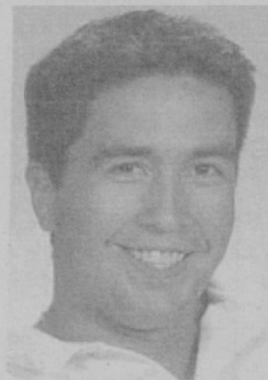
The most significant contribution a 1L can make to SBA is to ensure that the 1L perspective is heard and considered. I intend to do just that and if elected will not let you down.

While it would be easy for me to lock myself in the library for the coming year and not emerge until May, I would enjoy the responsibility and the privilege of being your SBA representative.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns that I can help with.

Jamie
Konn

What's up Section 11? Am I the only one, or does it seem like our lives have regressed to those of junior high students with the overcrowded shared lockers and hallways, the ever popular library scavenger hunts, the lightning fast rumor chain, and of course the ability to flip through the facebook to figure out just who that person is. I thought it best to begin my appeal for your vote in relation to our recent relapse to those innocent days. I began my work with student governments back in New Jersey in 7th grade and have continued to date. I have been a homeroom and section representative affording me much experience in relating the issues of my peers to the governing student organization. In college I dedicated myself to more pressing issues as a member of Tufts University's Inter-Greek Council in fighting the good fight against oppression from the university administration and further as the president of my fraternity I was responsible for ensuring that the Greek life based social environment of the university was running at full steam. I would be honored if you would grant me the opportunity to present your issues, fight for those things you desire, and, as I would be remiss in my responsibility as the president of a fraternity to neglect mentioning, organizing social events to bring our section, our entire 1L class, and all of GW Law together.

Luis
Lorenzana

In my opinion, the primary role of a 1L SBA representative is to help fellow 1Ls maximize their first year experience. It is a tremendous responsibility because as you know, you never forget your first.

As Section 11's representative, I would enjoy the opportunity to work closely with my classmates to ensure that their academic and extracurricular activity concerns are being professionally addressed to the administration, faculty and SBA officers. I will effectively communicate the issues affecting your day-to-day life at George Washington Law, and respectfully represent your voice in our student government. So far, I am very fond of the fine men and women that make up Section 11 and would be honored to represent them.

I would like to make the best of this law school situation and enjoy our time together. Let's face it, the title 1L SBA Representative is another way of saying a social chair. I have no problems with that, in fact, I embrace it. Thinking of unique and interesting ways to entice over 90 determined law students to participate in social events is a great challenge not many would dare take on. Some may think it is impossible. I actually look forward to the challenge and responsibility of making a positive difference in the world we call Section 11. Thank you.

References available upon request.

Ben
Olson

Although there are many reasons to get involved with the SBA, I think the main reason I want to be our section representative comes from a feeling of obligation to give back, at least in part, what I have received. It is no small issue (as Professor Schooner would emphasize) that we have this educational opportunity before us. By some mixture of luck, hard work, and unexplained direction, we're here and unless we share our skills and abilities, I think we'll come up quite empty handed.

I believe our abilities are best used when we focus our efforts to (1) serve others in need, including each other, and (2) advance the academic goals of the school. Serving others helps them move forward in their lives now, and advancing the academic goals of the school helps us pave the way for students tomorrow.

As an undergrad, I had the opportunity to be the program director for our university's local food drive for a couple years. It wasn't easy work for everyone, and it required a fair amount of time and effort from some of the volunteers; however, it was rewarding. It put school and work in perspective for me and, I'm sure, for the others that got involved. Similarly, I hope we can continue to give back and advance the school.

If you're interested in current school issues, go to www.lucidtruth.com/sba.

Amir Shaikh

So how are you going to choose your candidate? Every candidate is qualified, every candidate is unique, every candidate is going to fix the computers, and every candidate is going to represent. She's my friend so I'll vote for her. That one seems cool, he'd make a good rep. I'll pick the one who will do the best job. Whatever your reasons are for deciding, just remember, this is a student government election. You're not electing the president of the universe and you're not making a life altering decision. You are deciding on someone who will try to make your daily routine go just a little smoother. You are deciding on someone who will try to give you alternatives to sitting in the library on a Saturday afternoon. But



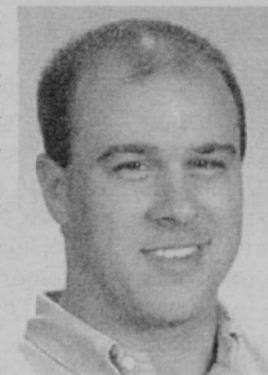
you already know that.

Nevertheless, I want to be that student rep. Why? Because I am an active seeker of issues rather than passive - I don't like to wait for things to get so bad that they become a huge issue. I tackle issues that are small and incremental so that the overall experience is better. Issues like the temperature of the library, vending machines stealing money, making the plasma information screens useful (Doppler radar!!!), and getting the internet to work. I will plan events, listen to concerns, and have fun representing your views to the law school community. My name is AMIR SHAIKH and I want your vote for SBA Section 11 Representative

Jason Harman

I have lived in Las Vegas, Nevada for most of his life. I chose GW Law for its well respected International law program, and the numerous opportunities available in and around the District. I have been working as a computer technician for the past 2 years, and ran an internet startup company that provided online restaurant reservations in Las Vegas for the past 3 years.

I have a marketing degree from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. I have worked in the media at several radio stations and at an advertising agency. I ran for the public office of University Regent for the University System of Nevada when I was 20 years old. I believed that I would be able to provide a voice for the widely unrepresented student population on a board



whose youngest member was in his fifties. While I was not elected, I was able to get my message out and found it was a really valuable experience.

I believe that all students should have a voice in the decisions of the Law School that affect them. As a 1L representative in the Student Bar Association I would strive to present the views of section 11 to the best of my ability. I believe that my experience gives me a unique perspective and puts me in a position to represent the students of section 1 fairly and effectively. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the issues that concern you so please feel free to contact me!

ELECTION SPECIAL

LLM Candidates

Arkan El Seblani

I am a full-time LLM student in the international and comparative law program. I got my LLB from the Lebanese university in Beirut and worked in UN development programs in my native country of Lebanon. My other interest, next to law, journalism, has led me to pursue writing as a freelancer, something I still occasionally do.

The fact that I am a full-time student will present me with a chance to come closer to the explicit and the implicit needs of my fellow students.

In my previous university, I assumed similar responsibilities. Representing my classmates and communicating their needs has been something that I took pleasure in doing. I thought to run for this office for three reasons:

1- To serve my fellow students and answer to their requests, ranging from their immediate needs like problems with school facilities to more extensive ones

like organizing study groups and arranging meetings to discuss current issues.

2- To learn more of what American student bodies can achieve and transfer this knowledge to international students who have now become a part of such a body so they can benefit from it.

3- To employ my networking skills and my passion to socialize to bring JDs and LLMs closer and create a genuinely interactive student body.

A representative should be able to support this mission and attend to the specific needs of the students he is representing, bearing in mind the need to



enhance interaction between all the students no matter their program or how their interests may differ. This variation is a source of richness to this university and a reason for which many, including me, have chosen to be here.

David Joy

The LL.M. students need to have a voice in the SBA. We may only be here for one year, but that should not downplay or diminish the importance of having a dedicated and experienced representative who will serve all the members of our class. I feel that I have what it takes to be the LL.M. students' link to the SBA, and I am asking you, my fellow LL.M. students, to place your trust in me.

I have experienced a lot that has helped me develop the skills that will make me able to serve you, the students.

As a chemistry teacher, though my job was to teach to the students, I also learned some invaluable lessons. Listening to my students' concerns and working to solve those problems taught me the importance

of solving problems quickly, especially when others were coming to me for help.

At Case Western Reserve University, where I received my J.D., I was the Editor-in-Chief of *HEALTH MATRIX: JOURNAL OF LAW-MEDICINE*. As the editor, my duties required me to manage my own work and to work with all of the members of my editorial staff. Organization, perseverance, attention to detail, and listening proved to be essential in achieving our end result.

Working well with others toward a common

goal can be tricky and it certainly can test one's wits. I hope that you will allow me to continue to apply all that I have learned, as I hope to serve as YOUR representative to the SBA.



Joshua Schwartz

Ever since I became a member of my local state and country bar associations I have dedicated myself to those bars and strived to make them a better place for all involved. I take that dedication very seriously and would ask for your vote so that I can bring that same dedication and experience to this bar association as well.

Since graduating from Tulane Law School three years ago I have spent a great deal of time involved with addressing the needs and concerns of young lawyers and law students. I feel that I bring a great deal of relevant experience to this position that enables me to serve you well as your LL. M. Student Bar Association representative.

I currently sit on the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Oklahoma,

Young Lawyers Division, as well as serve as a liaison to my State Bar Association's

Volunteer Committee. I have served in the past as a delegate to the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division.

I served this past year for my county bar as the social director for the Young Lawyers Division. I also recently finished serving as a co-committee chair for my County Bar Association's Law Fair 2003 celebration.

As law students and young lawyers we face many of the same challenges at school, and share many of the same goals. It is that commonality that brings us together. My goal would be to build on that commonality to help foster a sense of community among our class.



Sean McMahon

Biographical Information: Born New York, NY December 2, 1981. Graduated Pelham Memorial High School, Pelham, NY (1999); Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland (LL.B. Hons.) 2003

Why me for class representative? You are dealing with a unique character here in many different ways. As there is only one LLM class rep the ideal candidate will

be able to represent the interests of both that I promise.



the US trained and non-US trained LLM students. I can do both. I am able to identify with the questions/concerns/issues that foreign students have and hope that I can draw on my foreign experience to help in the future. The US LLMs should have full confidence that I can assist them at all times. I can also organize one heck of a party? and we will have some great LLM parties?

Section 12

Patrick Blanch

My name is Patrick Blanch and I hope to represent you and your interests as the Student Bar Association Representative for the 1L's of Section 12.

Experience is a key component in any working environment, and I have experience in both student government and organizational management. In college, I served as an elected officer on the executive board of a human service fraternity, including one-year terms as Secretary and President. This experience gave me an appreciation for the difficulties of managing manpower and money, in prioritizing an agenda for an organization with diverse interests, and on the practical day-to-day operation of such an endeavor.

One of my main goals in my first

semester as Representative will be to achieve 24-hour library hours during finals. Many other law schools already perform this service for their students and students take advantage of it. This service is important because finals period is a time when sleep comes at odd hours as often as classwork does.

In an arena where there are many demands on the time of a few people and the limited resources they possess, it is vitally important for a representative to be vocal. If you don't work hard

and carry a microphone, you will not be heard. I'd like to serve as the microphone for the concerns and interests of Section 12, so that all of us will have an opportunity to be heard.



Sarah Dean

I grew up in Bridgewater, VA which is a small town situated in the Shenandoah Valley. I graduated in 2000 from the University of Virginia with an English major and a history minor. I've spent the past three years working in Washington, D.C. My first job involved public affairs and event planning for a small non-profit, non-partisan firm. For the last two years I was a legal secretary at Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd & Evans.

I'm running for office because I think it will be fun and that I'll be good at it! While at UVa I participated in many activities that prepared me for the responsibility of Section 12 1L SBA representative. Since I've lived in Washington, D.C. for several years I know the ins and outs of the city to plan events for our section.

Hopefully I will also get to know everyone in Section 12 better as a representative.

Some of the contributions I would like to make as SBA representative are:

Social - too many fabulous ideas!

Section 12 t-shirt

Study group organization for finals

Day trip (ski, hike, raft - let me know)

Of course, I am here for any of your concerns to take back to SBA and will faithfully

report back from our bi-weekly meetings to you. While two hours per week is the minimum requirement as a 1L representative, I plan to participate in the SBA and contribute to the law school as much as possible.



ELECTION SPECIAL

Section 13

Sara Bieker

Ode to 1L Rep

"A brief profile," says the SBA President, and we all sigh in common lament; we'll sweat blood and tears for extra curriculars, but please, no more "personal statements."

So it turns out we have Student Gov't (to make rules and interrupt Torts); well, being ever ambitious, I did a bit of research, and here is the long and the short:

All that cash Access gave to the school (in exchange for our mortal souls), it gets taken by cart to the bowels of Stuart, and thrown in a "Budget" (or "Hole").

Then the SBA all gets together, in continual fiscal endeavor, to make student groups happy (the job would be crappy,

without the free cookies and beer).

So I'm thinking my Business degree and 2 years for a University writing budgets for state-funded projects might rate as the bean-counting skills this job needs.

And if Sec-13 needs a liaison, I'd be up for a lobby marathon; for stuff like free printing, I could be there chanting (war cries - "but they have it at Georgetown!").

So what made me think I'd appeal with a (slightly) poetic political spiel? The excuse might be poor, but truth is, I was bored (you're still reading, so you know how it feels).

Since my resume won't win a Pulitzer, this, at least, makes a good bathroom reader ('cause I have to admit that for feeding you *this*, I may owe you a spoonful of sugar).



Jamie Lucia

My name is Jamie Lucia. I am running for 1L SBA Representative for Section 13. First, a little bit about my background...I grew up in a small town in Oregon. I moved to San Diego for college and majored in Chemistry at the University of San Diego. After graduation, I worked for two years as a research associate in the chemistry department of a pharmaceutical company in San Diego. Now I am here in DC, attending law school and I am excited to be a part of such a great school and such a fulfilling experience. I am running for Representative in an effort to encourage the growth of every student here at GWU, and in particular all of my fellow 1L classmates. At USD, I was a member of the Women's

Basketball Team and I was the captain of that team for my senior year. I am aware of the great honor and responsibility that comes with being able to represent a team of individuals to both an academic and a general community and population. It is important to me that every student at GW be heard and respected. We have all been given the unique opportunity to share our law school experience in a great school and in a stimulating community. As a representative, I will bring a positive attitude and enthusiasm to

GW. I will be dedicated to improving the experience of every student, both as individual students.



Justin Copeland

So you're probably sitting there wondering how you are supposed to pick one of us for your Section 13 representative? Everyone went to good schools. Everyone made good grades. Everyone looks qualified. Sure, I've held undergraduate leadership positions such as ambassador for the college of business, treasurer of the business leadership council, and president of a co-ed professional business fraternity, but so has everyone else. I'm sure many candidates come packing a much more impressive resume than myself. The truth is, none of that really matters. When you get down to it, what does matter is the level of dedication I will provide you, our section, our class, and our school. Just this summer, Jasmine Blackmeir (Section 14) and I co-orga-

nized an event that many of you attended, the Meet 'N Greet. At this event, around 100 fellow 1L's gathered for a weekend of dinners, drinks, house hunting, and an overall good time. While I do believe social activities are important, a healthy balance of academic, athletic, and service, and social activities is key to bringing us all closer together. It is my goal that we not only strengthen the relationships within our section but also branch out and build new relationships with our class. That is what this position is all about and that is exactly the kind of thing I am good at. I promise, if you vote for me on September 24, I will do an excellent job! Thank you for your time, Justin Copeland



Will Wilder

"It's lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believe in myselfI believe in myself." - Muhammed Ali.

My name is Will Wilder and I am running for the position of 1L SBA representative for Section 13. I am a proud graduate of the University of Florida (yes, I bleed Orange and Blue), where I was highly active in campus activities ranging from Student Government to Preview, Florida's new student orientation program. As a result of my involvement, I was honored by being inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame and chosen as an outstanding

graduate leader for my graduating class. After 3 years of graduate school and full time employment in human resources, I find myself here at George Washington pursuing a career in law, and again seizing the opportunity to get involved. I believe that both my campus and life experience has given me the foundation that is needed to properly serve my section as a representative in the Student Bar Association. As I am fully prepared to accept the challenge and responsibility commitment that comes with the position, I humbly solicit your vote.



Shannon Gibson



Hello section 13! I would love to be your representative in the SBA. I am a born and raised Georgia Peach, hoping to bring some southern hospitality to section 13 and the SBA. I am running for this office because I enjoy getting involved and meeting new people. I also love to plan social events. I had the opportunity to plan many events as social chairman of my sorority at the Univer-

sity of Georgia. In addition to planning happy hours and other fun social gatherings for our section, I also hope to organize study groups to work on outlines and prepare for exams. I was very involved in student government when I was in high school, and now that we're back there again I would be so happy to have that opportunity once more.

Ana Zablah

My name is Ana Zablah, and I am running for SBA Section Representative. Having been asked to provide a little background, I shall oblige: I was born in El Salvador and have lived half my life there. As for the other half, I've spent it in various places within the U.S., including (sunny and beautiful) South Bend, Indiana, where I attended college, Austin, and Miami. I am older than the average 1-L, and also come from a professional background unusual for a law student, the Visual Arts. For those of you who will ask: Yes, that means—among other things—painting. Although painting is the least of what I had to do to support myself as an artist! As a university student, I was never very interested

in extra-curricular activities. (Perhaps I overdid it in high school!) Later, however, I returned to El Salvador and became very involved with the community there, collaborating in some incredible projects, particularly the rebuilding efforts after the earthquakes of 2001. (Imagine throwing a piñata for an entire village's children with all the buildings on the ground!) My many activities in El Salvador became one of the primary reasons behind my decision to attend law school. Now, a student again, I would once more like the chance to be a part of something and contribute whatever I can. Ergo my candidacy, and this statement...



ELECTION SPECIAL

Section 14

Ben Askew

My name is Ben Askew, and I hope to represent section 14. As SBA representative, I would like to provide reliable wireless internet access and bring the Expos (Senators) to DC. Unfortunately, I can promise none of the above.

Nevertheless, if elected, I will strive to make your 1L experience as exciting, rewarding, and memorable as possible. That much can be promised as I have the experience, work ethic, and personality to do so. Please allow me to introduce myself, explain why I seek this office, and make clear what I will do as your representative.

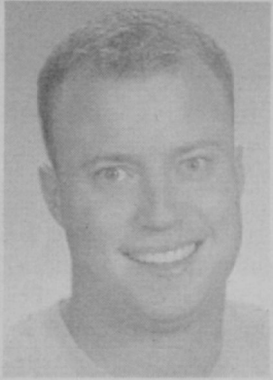
I was born and raised in the Missouri, home to great beer (see Anheuser-Busch), Midwestern values (see honesty and integrity), and memorable case studies (see State v. Nations). More importantly, student government has long been

a passion of mine.

As an undergraduate, I served my classmates in many capacities. Among these various positions, my role as a student liaison between University administration and the Greek community is most relevant to this election. My responsibilities as liaison allowed me to acquire the experience necessary to fulfill with confidence the duties of SBA representative. I will express your concerns to and deal vigorously with the administration on a consistent basis. I will keep you informed of the issues and remain available to

hear your feedback.

Finally, I would like to reaffirm my desire to serve you as your SBA representative. I will take this responsibility very seriously and work hard to represent you effectively.



Jen Ngai

Who am I? To spare us the bio and put it most casually, I'm a hard-working, soccer-loving, German-speaking, violin-playing, Chinese-American advertising major from Pennsylvania- who, like everyone else around me now, somehow ended up in Torts.

I'm running for office because I'm excited to be here and want to be involved in the things that bring us all together as a class and as a school. As I'm sure all the other candidates are as well, I am experienced in leadership and community service, and already have some ideas of new things we might be able to get together- including athletic leagues within the law school and opportunities to see some of DC's other ven-

ues in addition to the bars, like the performing arts.

What I think it comes down, though, is that a section rep should not be the person who has the most friends, harbors the most experience, or makes the most attractive promises- it should be a person who is comfortable, easy to approach, and willing to listen to the interests of the class. Whether you find me kicking back at bar review or being a hermit in the stacks of Burns, I am always down to earth and interested in what people have to say. I would love to represent section 14 in SBA, and hope that I get the chance.



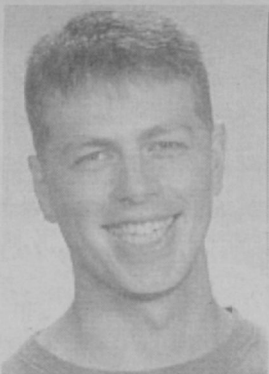
John Refior

I'm running because I want to advocate for my peers, strengthen the community of our section, and ensure that every one of us is adequately represented in the law school. I envision three roles for the 1L rep. As an advocate he represents the will of the section to the administration and to the law school community. As an organizer, he organizes social events and helps facilitate anything members want to organize. As a mediator or negotiator he will, if called upon, help resolve disputes by communicating each party's perspective and suggesting creative solutions. I have an interest in the successful fulfillment of each of these roles.

There are a couple of tasks I would like to take on immediately. The most

important one is starting the tradition of a Friday afternoon social hour. Bar Review is great, but we're 1Ls and our week doesn't end on Thursday. We also need a Friday afternoon social hour to celebrate the end of the week and start the weekend right. The second one is fixing our flaky internet connection. It shouldn't take you twenty minutes to check your email. I worked as a software engineer for almost two years, and did network support as an undergrad, so I think I can argue effectively for improving our connectivity. As a student of history I also take a certain joy in this process, so

I look forward to hearing what you would like me to advocate on your behalf. Solidarity



Tejas Shah

My name is Tejas Shah and I am a 1L in Section 14, and I am running for Section Representative. I graduated from Duke University with a B.S. in Econ in 2002, and a minor in Political Science. My background is split between Chicago and India, where I moved when I was six years old, and lived until the age of 16. I actively participated in student government in college, where I was an executive member of a 250 member South Asian cultural association called Diya for three years, including as President during my senior year. My greatest successes were consistently fundraising \$20,000 every year from campus organization for the largest-student run and much touted event on campus, an annual show called 'Awaaz,' and actively participating in campus politics on behalf of Diya.

I am running for section represen-

tative because I want to effectively represent the concerns of first-year students in my Section. I have already noticed and have heard people mention their dissatisfaction with a disproportionate emphasis on Bar Review, to the exclusion of other events. I believe that we can expand social offerings from the law school and student government so that students can effectively balance work and play and so that a greater percentage of students will be satisfied with options at the law school. Possibilities include more bowling nights, group visits to historical sites in Washington DC, special movie screenings, and an opportunity to meet and greet students from other professional schools. I will always hold a friendly and understanding ear for any of my classmates.



Alessandro Terenzoni

"NOOOO!!! PUT YOUR HAND DOWN!!! NO MORE HYPOTHETICALS!!!!"

- From a nightmare I had the other night.

Just a little over a month ago, men and women from all over descended on Washington, DC to begin the next stage of their lives. Some of us are fresh out of college and wistfully remember residence halls and frat parties. Some of us (like myself) have been out of school for a year or ten and wistfully remember a steady paycheck. Either way, our lives are now consumed by this new creature: Law School. We mark up our casebooks with an assortment of highlighters. We string together countless profane words when our internet fails

every 30-45 seconds. We have nightmares like the one above.

Hailing from Caldwell, NJ, I graduated from Tufts University with a degree in International Relations in 2001. (Then again, if you have a facebook, you know this already.) During the last two years, I participated in a program called Teach for America and taught middle school in Newark, NJ. While the last two years of my life were amazing and I truly miss my students like crazy, I find myself excited by the study of the law. I would be very pleased and honored to act as a liaison between section 14 and the SBA. My promises are only two: (1) I will never waste your time, and (2) I will always sweat through my shirt in Crim. Law.



Advertise in the Nota Bene

Advertising Rates

1/8 Page (20 square inches).....	\$75
1/4 Page (40 square inches).....	\$125
1/2 Page (80 square inches).....	\$200
Full Page (160 square inches).....	\$300
Full Back Page.....	\$325

We offer discounts for multiple-issue commitments. Contact us at NotaBene@law.gwu.edu for our publishing schedule.

FEATURES

Looking Back

Our Roving Manatee Hater Reflects on His Early Attempts At Studying With Others

As a third-year law student, I have the luxury of sitting back and watching the 1Ls and 2Ls run about their busy lives. Well, 1Ls are not particularly busy, but they just think they are. First years, wait until next year. Then you'll know what the true meaning of misery is—that is, until you're out in the real world working crazy hours at an unfulfilling, depressing job.

But I digress. Let's stay focused. I remember my first year of law school like it was just yesterday. We were all determined to master the law and finish at the top of our class. On a side note, I am always amused at the surprise of first years when they find out that half of their classmates are in the bottom fifty percent of their class. Anyhow, I recall going through at least three study groups during the first couple months.

The first study group was about fifteen students, but it seemed more like fifty students. Everyone had an opinion as to how they felt about a particular case. By the time the discussion had ended, we had accomplished nothing and just argued about the outcome of these cases. Most study groups start off this way. If we only knew not to argue the law, but rather just understand and know how to apply it.

The second study group was even worse. Meeting with this group was more painful than ripping off my fingernails and sticking them in my eyes, while getting kicked in the groin at the same time. Hey, they are

still my friends, so I'm being easy on them. Somehow, for demented reason, we thought it would be a brilliant idea to create a "master outline." This master outline would draw the best points out of our individual outlines. Put together it would represent an unstoppable force of virtuosity and comprehensiveness. Talk about an awful idea. Imagine sitting in a circle and reading your outline to the "recorder" for endless hours. Here's how a typical session went:

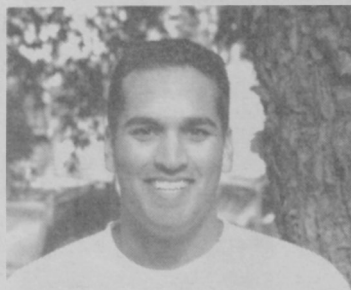
Betty: Jerome, what's a good point from your outline?

Jerome: Well, Betty, I think that we should include a sentence about how *Pennoyer v. Neff* would apply if it were still good law today.

Me: What? Why would we need to know how to apply bad law on an exam?

Betty: Because we need to know how the law developed throughout time. I bet Professor Friedenthal would ask a question about whether personal jurisdiction exists if *Pennoyer* were still good law.

Jerome: Erik, she has a point. We should include it.



ERIK BAPTIST
**THREE
(HEL)L**

Mulva: I agree. This master outline should have everything! Me: Whatever. I wish I could tell you that this conversation did not really happen or was exaggerated, but I'd be lying. I still cry from the pain it brought me. Needless to say, I left this group only after a few meetings.

After that "incident," I decided to start independently studying for class. I did not find another group until November, which was when I finally got around to writing my actual outlines. All this group, which has remained throughout the years, did was sit in the same room while studying by ourselves, only to speak when asking a question or seeking a point of clarification on a specific issue. That's the way—uh-huh, uh-huh—I like it.

Even watching 2Ls invokes some painful memories. Interviewing. What a nightmare. And it's not the faking a smile, pretending that you're interested in what the interviewer is saying, or acting serious/professional that irked me. I'm actually good at that stuff on occasion. The annoying part was that you can't act yourself. Well, you can be yourself to a certain degree, but don't open up too much. For those of you who don't know me, I like to joke around and have a good time. Apparently, that "Erik" should never have been introduced to some of my interviewers.

Let's just say, I have some advice for you 2Ls and 3Ls who are interviewing: (1) never—and I mean *never*—joke with an interviewer that you would rather check e-mail on her computer than ask her any questions about the firm; (2) it's probably not a good idea to rub it in an interviewer's face that the congressman whom you worked for handily defeated his opponent whom the interviewer worked for; (3) it's also probably an awful idea actually to admit when you were not paying attention to an interviewer's longwinded answer to your question; and (4) I would strongly recommend *not* making any off-color racist or sexist joke (I actually never did this, but I'm assuming it's a bad idea—just making sure you're reading closely).

Sure, I might sound obnoxious. At times that may be true. But at least I'm not as repugnant as some worthless, environmentally-foul manatee.

Erik Baptist is a 3L from Illinois, where they have no manatees. Reach him at ebaptist@law.gwu.edu.

Law School: Entertainment In More Than One Medium

Well, I've been able to tear myself away from the Swimsuit Issue—I mean the 1L Face Book—long enough to share some more of my thoughts with you. I'm sorry, first years, I admit it. We're judging you. I'm sure that most of you understand this by

now. There's simply no other explanation for why so many upperclassmen are sitting around the lounges for half a week poring over your smiling faces.

That being said, I'd like to give a shout out to all the hotties that I've drawn hearts around in my yearbook—I mean Face Book. So as to not embarrass you by giving your names, I'd like to say hello to certain young ladies from Penn, Tufts, and the University of Maryland—you rock my world.

Such sentiments may be to no avail, however. By the time this gets printed, the hurricane will have hit, and I might be gone. No, I'm not worried about my personal safety, but if there's enough damage, I could fake my own death, get out of my law school debt, and start a grand new life. I'd be called something cool, like Trip Fontaine, and I'd travel the country doing good deeds, like some great TV show. Man, if life were more like TV, I'd be so happy.

As it is, I don't think I'll be recast in life, so I'm wondering, what would the TV show about GW Law be like?

If our show was on Animal Planet or National Geographic, I think we'd all make for a great documentary. Like a mix between Jane Goodall's chimps and the Crocodile Hunter, I can imagine Steve Irwin saying, "Check out these students in their study group. It's a natural defense mechanism for them against the dreaded FINALS (*pronounced, fo-I-nulls*)!"

If the show about our school were a cartoon, things around here would be interesting. Professors would be able to punish those whose cell phones ring in class with extendable boxing glove arms. Gunners would know how annoying they were being when everyone's heads turned red and ballooned out, with steam jetting out of their ears. Instead of anvils dropping on people's heads, though, it'd be casebooks—they're just as heavy anyway.

I'm not even going to talk about reality shows. That's just way too easy.

GW Law would definitely go well in a remodeling show like Trading Spaces or Monster House. A quick, cheap, looks-nice-from-afar makeover of our facilities, where in reality, important functions of



CHRIS MCCLINTOCK
My Mens Rea

the space and equipment are lost and ignored by the designers. Sound familiar? Too bad we couldn't switch with another law school for a summer and remake it. We'd either be so afraid we were going to trash each other's buildings that both sides would do a really good job, or we'd really just trash each other's places. All the

same, I'd like to give Georgetown Law a tropical Zen theme...

I can also think of how our school could be made into a giant game show. Students in classes would chant "No whammies, no whammies!" while their professors sought one of them to cold-call. We could all have screens in front of us with our current projected grade,

and as we contribute to class, the grade will go up and down, depending on the quality of our answers. The Moot Court competition is already run like Star Search, anyway.

Sadly, if the GW Law Show were on MTV, only a few of us would even get camera time. These pretty people would blabber endlessly about how tough law school is and how they don't like anyone in their section.

Sadly, if the GW Law Show were on MTV, only a few of us would even get camera time. These pretty people would blabber endlessly about how tough law school is and how they don't like anyone in their section. Then they'd go make out with half of their section-mates, get into fights with many of them, sing karaoke, bust a couple of dance moves, show way too much skin, and then cry to their coaches about how they'll never be made into honors law students.

Then they'd go make out with half of their section-mates, get into fights with many of them, sing karaoke, bust a couple of dance moves, show way too much skin, and then cry to their coaches about how they'll never be made into honors law students in just eight more weeks. Then again, that's practically a perfect description of the first year, anyway (changing coaches to dean's fellows). "This is the true story...of 1200 strangers...picked to attend law school...and see what happens...when they stop being polite...and start using Westlaw."

As it is, however, we're not all on TV. Much to my dismay, there's no soundtrack or laugh track. Sometimes I think there's plenty enough drama, but still, we mostly just plug along day after day. Our experience here at GW Law may not be as exciting or sensational as TV, but we've still got our heroes and villains; our victories and failures. So, maybe it's not such a bad thing that the hurricane won't cause enough damage for me to reinvent myself. I'm having a perfectly entertaining time right here where I am. I hope you are, too.

Chris McClintock is the Opinions Editor of the Nota Bene. Reach him at cmcclintock@law.gwu.edu.

FEATURES

John Harvard's

For good food and great micro brews, head on over to J.H. in the mid-town/downtown area. Now we're not talking about John Holmes: this is something even bigger. John Harvard's Brew House proffers a veritable cornucopia of

brews made on location. Dubbed by one patron in a good-natured manner "the anemic younger brother of Capitol City Brewery," John Harvard's offers about seven beers at any given time. Even with this relatively limited repertoire, the varieties offered are sure to please the most finicky barley and hops aficionado amongst us – for you students who get "all uppity" over your beer. From the Light Lager to a tasty dark porter or their 8-grain stout, the spectrum has something for everyone, and the quality is pretty consistent throughout.

The current selection, which can be found on a chalkboard over the far end of the bar, lists the current brews available. And for you ultra-finicky/uppity drinkers, the board also displays the original gravity, hops, and malt used to create these delicious pints of paradise. Presently, the Brew House is featuring their Light Lager, Pale Ale, a seasonal Oktoberfest, a Brown Ale, and a nice, thick porter. The Light Lager is a bit over carbonated, but seemed to pass muster for the light beer drinkers in our group (if quantity consumed is any indication of "passing muster"). The Brown Ale was found a bit on the too sweet side. Meantime, the seasonal Oktoberfest, an amber that had a surprising fruity aftertaste, was quite a pleasant find. The porter is perhaps one of the finest to be found this side of the big pond we call the Atlantic. Though not currently being offered, their 8-grain stout is not to be missed.

But there is more to John Harvard's than just beer. Harvard's has a full menu that makes it a very popular lunch spot for seeming hundreds. From simple, but tasty, appetizers to sandwiches to pasta and seafood, Harvard's food menu is akin to that of its beer: short and simple, but a wide variety quality morsels. Their Grilled Ale and Mustard Chicken Sand-

wich comes highly recommended. That being said, if you do venture there for lunch, ensure that you have a good 45 minutes to an hour to spare, as there can be a bit of a wait to get a table.

TROY D. BYERS

The Bar Review

If Happy Hour is more your thing, Harvard's has happy hour specials from 3-7 p.m. Monday through Friday. All pints are \$1 off, and they offer \$2 appetizers, such as Ahi Tuna skewers, half-dozen chicken wings, hamburger, *et. al*, which are quite tasty.

The staff is quite friendly and knowledgeable about the beers, so don't hesitate to ask the bartender to help you slip into a brew that suits your taste. The lunchtime service is sometimes a little lacking, but is easy to forgive when you see how busy that space can become.

The only caveat I give is that as far as a bar is concerned, the atmosphere is a bit too restaurant-esque. It doesn't give you that intimate yet anonymous bar feeling that is like the proverbial "Call of the Wild" for some of us. The lighting is a bit too bright, and if you show up there with a few people, the seating at the bar makes conversation difficult. There are booths immediately flanking the bar which can comfortably seat about 5 ½ persons, but it's a tough spot to stretch out in. And while they do play some good music (generally generic 80's pop), it isn't audible in the bar area.

With 10 locations in the Northeast, John Harvard's is an intimate chain that has retained high quality. Though I concede this comparison is based solely on the Cambridge, Mass location, word on the street has it that quality amongst its chains in Philly is also consistent. John Harvard's DC Brew House is located on the corner of 13th and E. To get there by Metro, take the Blue or Orange line to Federal Triangle, come out by Jordan's Bar, and head straight north across Pennsylvania Avenue. From the Red line, take Metro Center, out the 12th Street exit, and navigate your thirst down to 13th and E. Follow the stairs down beside the John Harvard's Brew House sign.

Review: *Lost in Translation*

By KATE WHITE
Staff Writer

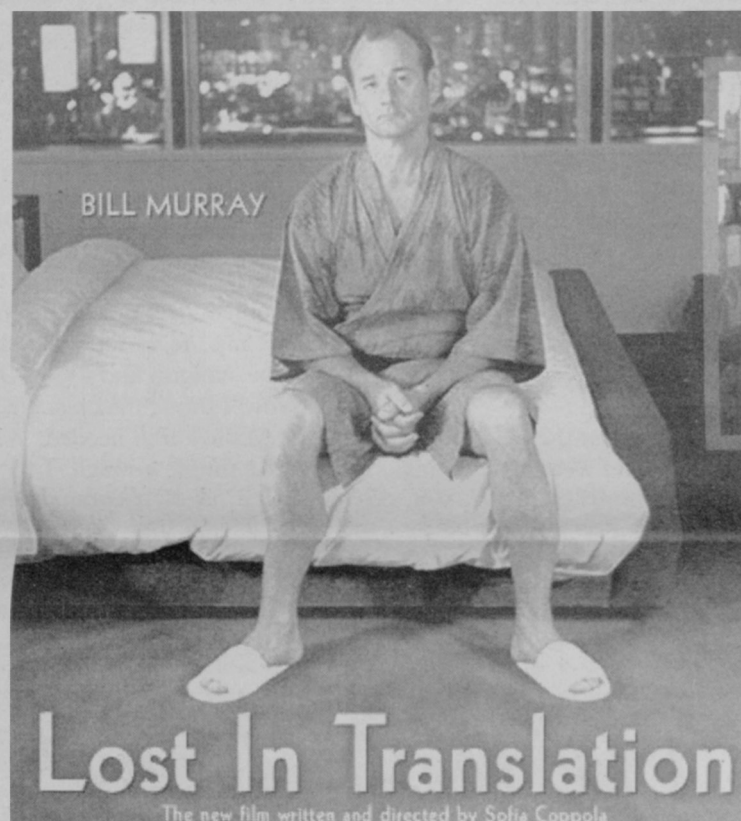
After spending the day wandering a foreign city while her husband, John is off working, a young woman named Charlotte returns to her hotel room and makes a phone call to a friend back in the United States. Charlotte is full of angst and ennui and expresses it by saying, "John's started using hair products." Her meaning is completely lost on her friend.

Across the city, Bob, a 50-something American actor, is being paid two million dollars to star in a series of whiskey ads. He sits stiffly in a tuxedo before a camera as his Japanese director, a man with a highlighted shag and tinted sunglasses, speaks animatedly for minutes at a time. The interpreter tells Bob the di-

similar sense of isolation from their respective spouses and a taste for irony that make their meeting absolute kismet. The fact that there's no real romance here might be a disappointment to some viewers, but the relationship's real power comes from the genuine connection between the two characters. Physical intimacy wouldn't really add anything.

Other characters in the movie too are almost superfluous. Giovanni Ribisi plays Charlotte's husband, but his screen time is minimal. His sole purpose is to viscerally demonstrate the disconnect between himself and Charlotte.

Set in Tokyo the film showcases the city's duality: it is on the one hand a modern marvel of lights and technology with a frenetic pace, and on the other it is intent on retaining respectful formalities like bowing. In one scene Charlotte



rector wants him to look into the camera. Bob raises an eyebrow and says wryly, "Are you sure that's all he said?"

Later that night, the two meet in the hotel bar and develop an instant rapport. Within minutes they are able to articulate all their frustrations to each other. It is this unexpected connection between the recent college-grad and the middle-aged past-his-prime actor that is the heart of Sofia Coppola's latest film *Lost in Translation*.

Bill Murray turns in one of his finest performances to date as Bob. After last being seen onscreen as Bosley in the first *Charlie's Angels* flick, Murray has chosen a role that really lets his talent shine through. In this film there are no explosions or scantily clad women to distract audiences from his comedic skill. His performance here is subtle and deeply affecting. The sardonic wit he employs as he surveys a culture that prefers Roger Moore's James Bond to Sean Connery's provides some of the movies biggest laughs. The true testament to Murray's dramatic abilities, though, is in the way his friendship with Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) seems to make perfect sense. As Bob and Charlotte spend a weekend growing closer, Bob never comes off as lecherous or pathetic.

Part of the credit for this is due to Johansson who imbues Charlotte with a worldliness and aplomb that make her the perfect match for Bob. The pair has a

roams an arcade where teenagers are playing videogames that replicate just about every other type of activity possible: running, dancing, playing the guitar, and, of course, shooting various forms of weaponry.

The kinetic energy of the place, the flashing lights and cacophonous sounds make the audience dizzy. It is easy to understand what it must be like for Charlotte and Bob to be constantly exposed to this sensory overload. In another scene, one of the most cinematically interesting, Coppola features an aerial shot of a still city at dawn. The camera pans the skyline impressing upon viewers not just the achievement of building Tokyo, but in creating any city.

Written and directed by Sofia Coppola, *Lost in Translation* is the rare film that engages and entertains audiences without resorting to violence, nudity, or excessive swearing. There is something universally recognizable in these two people who are both geographically and metaphorically lost. Murray and Johansson have the charisma to make Bob and Charlotte's burgeoning friendship extremely watchable. The movie gives meaning to Adrienne Rich's phrase "identity with strangers." Bob and Charlotte, strangers to Japan, to each other, and to the audience turn out to be perfectly suited for the city, for one another, and for a small satisfying film about rediscovering vitality and a sense of self.

Interested in Writing for the next edition of the Nota Bene?

*We are looking for News and Opinions Writers
No Experience Necessary; 1Ls Welcome*

If interested, send an e-mail to notabene@law.gwu.edu

FEATURES

Ride-Along Leads to Night of Adventure

By ERIC KOESTER
Staff Writer

I'm your typical desk job kinda guy, and that's why I decided law school was for me. When I refer to desk job, I'm talking about being a paper-pusher, a monitor-jockey, and a Palm Pilot rebel. I consider a tough paper-jam in the copy room real action. That said, I certainly don't fall into the category of a career in a dangerous working environment. And frankly, that's okay with me.

"You think I can ride along with you some night?" I asked my buddy Justin (names have been changed to protect the innocent). He's a cop and my golfing buddy. When we're out on the course, he makes references to the gun in his car and using his driver like a nightstick. To me, that's tough.

"That'd be fun," he said. "How about Friday night – I'll pick you up at your apartment?"

I wasn't quite sure how to respond – it seemed like I'd just been asked out on a date. No matter. I figured that was protocol and didn't hem over details. Anyways, I never put out on the first date, so I figured I'd be okay. It was now official – I was going to be a "ride-along."

"Don't wear anything that'll make you stand out."

Justin told me that the only important thing was to avoid wearing anything that looks like a "bulls-eye." Ha-Ha. That's a funny one – don't wear a bulls-eye... wait, that's not really funny. Jokes like that stem from something that really happened – like a guy wearing a flashing tie and getting capped by some drug

dealer while on a ride along.

I peered into my closet and examined my options. I immediately moved everything that wasn't black or gray from the "potential" category into the "no" category. After that, I checked out all logos to ensure that any gunmen from the grassy knolls wouldn't mistake me for a firing range dummy. That didn't leave much to appear stylish on my ride, but I was willing to accept the lack of fashion savvy to keep the lead from my vitals.

"If you need to use the shotgun to protect life, here's how you unlock it."

As I opened the door to get into the squad car, visions of "N.Y.P.D. Blue" flashed into my head. Was I going to be the good cop or the bad cop? Should I be the quiet type or the cop who was the ring-leader? Did I need to get one of those flip down wallets so I could properly flash my badge?

Before I could ask if I could be Rickey Schroeder instead of the fat guy from "Blue," Justin began his first lesson of the evening.

"I don't want to freak you out or anything, but I am a real cop and real shit could potentially happen tonight. Now if something happens and you need to protect my life or someone else's just unlock the shotgun and use it. Okay?"

Wow, I thought. I just got permission to use the gun if needed. While this all seemed simple enough, I felt I'd entered into a bit of a conundrum. You see, what if I felt that while Justin was writing a traffic ticket that I should fire a warning shot over his left shoulder to prevent the accused speeder from driving 14 over again? I'm very irrational and may

want to take out a jaywalker if he flips me off, now I'm given the ability to pull out a gat and fire rounds. I like this already.

"When you work the night shift, you don't go out for donuts."

Justin took me to the station to check in and fill out some paperwork. While signing my life away to the men in blue, I found out some interesting tidbits – the cops here have a pool going to see who can catch the most D.U.I.s. Now, I'm all for gambling on things like golf. However, this seems to be demented. "Gee, let's see how many people's lives we can ruin by taking away their car, making them pay a huge fine, and forcing them to look like an idiot when their mom drops them off for work." Still, I was glad to see my buddy was fourth in the pool.

As we exited the station, all the other cops eyed me with a level of suspicion – I think they knew what I was thinking about the shotgun, but that was just my hunch. So I guess that means I won't be Rickey Schroeder after all. We pulled the car out of the station lot and drove for about fifteen minutes until a call came over the radio.

"Hawkins? Do you read? Over. Hawkins? This is Jamison. Do you read?"

My heart raced as the anticipation over our first call rushed through my limbs. This could be a drug deal gone wrong, a shoot out, or even a DUI to add to my buddy's list. I waited patiently as he picked up the radio.

"Hawkins here. Over. What's the good word Jamison?"

He seemed quite at ease, but I assumed this was old hat to him. Nothing rattles Hawkins, right? He's a pro.

"Yeah, I was thinking about going for Mexican tonight. What are your thoughts on that? Over."

Okay. For all of you out there, this is called being "anticlimactic." What I had hoped was a triple homicide was really just arranging to order super nachos for an appetizer.

"Probably not the smartest thing you've ever done, huh?"

By the end of the night, Justin had let me choose which speeder to go after and ticket, given me a breathalyzer to see how it worked (thankfully, I passed), let me help him book our D.U.I. capture for the evening (with my help, he moved into a tie for 3rd place in the pool), and even bought me a doughnut when our night ended at 5:30 am.

The night was certainly a success. I was made fun of by some of the other cops on the scene for my choice of attire during my ride-along night. I held the radar gun and picked the fast red car to chase. And I was tempted to grab the shotgun, but refrained. I learned that cops are just guys who do the best they can. Sometimes they are pricks and sometimes they aren't. They don't eat donuts at midnight, but they'll stop for Taco Bell if the moment is just right. I'd been a part of their family – even if it was just for a night. Sure, I wasn't Rickey Schroeder, but I may have been the fat guy. Just this once.

Eric Koester is a 1L. Reach him at ekoester@law.gwu.edu

FIP Hell: There's No Love For the Jobless

Recently, Professor John F. Banzhaf and some of the more sesquipedalian and verbose members of the 1L class questioned whether law school students are idealistic. When I came to the law school, I certainly was. I wanted to save the world, and I thought that a law degree was the way to do so. Then I signed away my life to Access, promptly turned all that money over to the evil real estate giant that runs my apartment building, and found myself with ever mounting credit card bills. Suddenly it seemed like the only saving I was going to be doing was saving my a** from debtor's prison.

I tried to find solutions to my financial woes that would enable me to keep my idealistic future goals. Unfortunately, unlike half the school, mommy and daddy won't be paying for my Lexis and my apartment in Columbia Plaza while I take a volunteer job at a public interest agency. For a while I toyed with the idea of becoming an exotic dancer – fast cash, not a lot of work – but I was afraid that that might lead to problems if I ever decided to run for political office (and my past is shady enough without adding that to it). Eventually I decided I had no choice. I resigned myself to doing something that most "idealists" would consider even more morally compromising than "dancing": I decided to apply to for a "Big Firm Job."

As fate would have it, that choice was the easy part. Not all firms are evil; and you can still save the world and work at a firm (e.g. in the corporate compliance or pro bono areas or by donating some of that pay check to worthy causes). No, my fall

would become hell on earth when I realized that the whole finding a job thing is almost exactly like dating, my apparent area of expertise. The difference is that in dating you get at least some say; in the job hunt the firms call all the shots. True, you have some choice in where you apply, but that's pretty much it. After you send out your resume, wherein you reveal the one little number that represents your entire self worth (your G.P.A.), you lose control. Let the rejection begin.

You have to understand that I'm not a girl who's used to rejection. I mean I'm smart, beautiful, charming, witty, and multitalented; I don't really hear "no" all that often. So you can imagine my shock (and awe even) when interview selections came out and I only was invited to half the firms to which I applied. Undaunted, I donned my new suit and enthusiastic smile and went to successful interview after successful interview (with one or



SARAH HENSLEY

Sexless In The City

two exceptions). I was sure I wowed them. They told me things like "that was the best answer I heard all day" and "I'm sure you'll be making a lot of trips up to Boston this fall." I guess they just say that to all the interviewees. We laughed, we joked, we had conversations and not stilted dialogues, and still a few weeks later the letters came.

The first letter was from a Boston firm I really liked, but knew I had no shot at when I didn't know who else pitched for the Red Sox besides Martinez and Lowe (and thus couldn't be the cool chick who talked about sports and wow the interviewer that way). Mr. Interviewer wrote he enjoyed learning about my "interests and objectives" but "regretted [he was] unable to consider [my] candidacy further." Dating world translation: "Baby, I'm sorry, but there're lots of fish in the sea – hotter fish – and going on another date with you would be a waste of my time and cash because you're never going to be good enough to be my woman." You're probably thinking no guy would ever say that. Well, probably not to your face anymore, but if you think back to early high school that's exactly what happened. When Stevie wanted to

break up with you exactly for that reason, he'd chicken out and have his boy Johnny do it for him. Today Johnny is played by Mr. Interviewer's personal assistant. You're lucky if the signature's authentic.

Unfortunately, my first letter wasn't my last, and I've officially been rejected from most of the firms with which I've interviewed. Apparently other candidates are just "more qualified"; or not to mince words, the one or two call back spots they reserved for GW students went to the person(s) with the 3.97. You might think the appropriate dating analogy is being dumped for a supermodel neurosurgeon. It's not exactly. What you should know by now (or what you will learn, 1Ls) is that grades are highly arbitrary. I do not mean to belittle my fellow classmates by saying that. The fact of the matter is that we're all pretty smart whether we have a 2.4 or a 4.2. If we weren't, chances are we wouldn't be here. So the appropriate analogy is being dumped for someone who's cuter, thinner or more popular, but *only because* she's cuter, thinner, or more popular.

It's funny though, in the dating world, I would never go for someone who would be interested in me exclusively for those reasons. I detest superficial, shallow people. So why should I care about a firm who only cares about my numbers? Fortunately, I don't have to.

OPINIONS

Why Howard Dean (and the U.N.) is wrong for America.

By ANTHONY MARCAVAGE
Staff Writer

This is a story of love lost. The first time I ever heard of Howard Dean, I was driving through upstate New York near the Vermont border, listening to local NPR, when the signal crackled and a strong voice pushed through the static. Howard Dean had just interrupted my afternoon listening. Halfway through his last "State of the State" address as governor of Vermont, Dean was talking about his legacy: Balanced budgets, near-universal healthcare for Vermont children, and civil rights legislation. As always, he was impressive, full of confidence and stamina; his popularity was evident from the way he addressed all of Vermont as if an old friend. Less than a year later, I gave a small, student-friendly donation to Dean's campaign; a \$25 that helped to start him on his way.

I have come to regret that donation. That afternoon, when I first heard Howard, he had the luxury of speaking only to domestic concerns. Indeed, Dean's domestic agenda remains impressive today. However, since becoming a candidate, his focus has necessarily shifted to the international front, a forum where his ideas are inchoate, impetuous, and greatly deviant from the traditional goals of American foreign policy. Howard Dean's agenda is best described as "post-modern," defined by a desire for the devolution of American power to international bodies, a deep mistrust of "self-interested" action, and a strong suspicion of U.S. power. I expect a demurrer, for isn't what I have described exactly why many Americans like Dean? The answer is yes. However, their reasoning, along with Dean's, is mistaken.

The vehicle for Dean's foreign policy as described above is the United Nations. In a Dean presidency, Ameri-

can policy would rely heavily on the cooperation and compromise facilitated by the U.N., willingly surrendering some autonomy for the sake of international synergy. In theory, this is a fine idea, as pooling the world's resources towards shared goals is a wise and practical undertaking that is worthy of any president.

dom, are denied if not repudiated by several permanent and many rotating members of the Security Council.

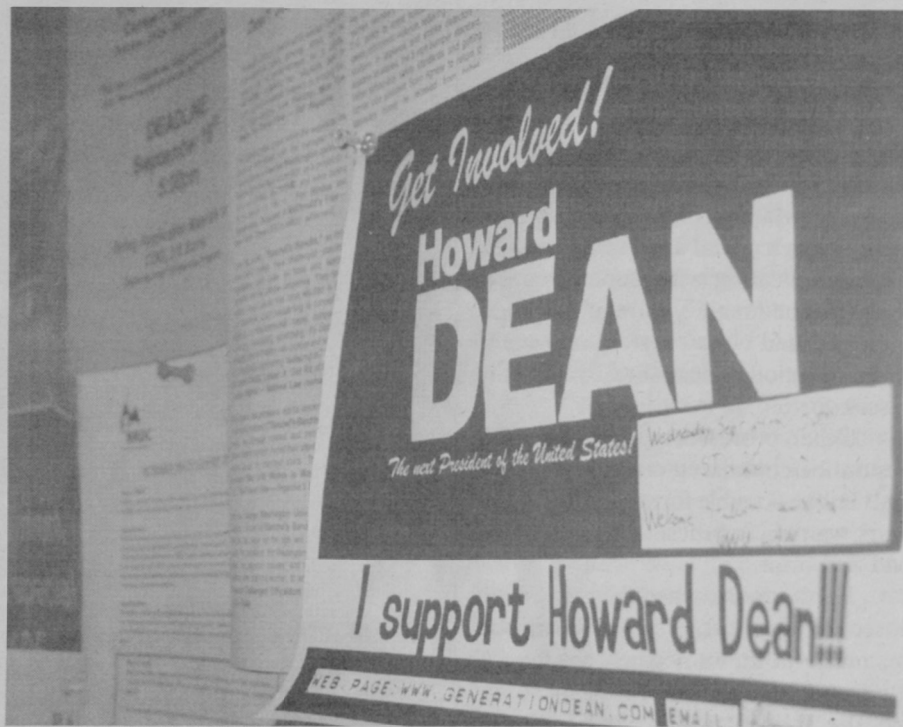
It is well beyond the talents of Dean or any other president to reconcile the political ideologies of a China, Syria, or North Korea with our own solely through the method of compromise. It is to

Iraq. He did, however, support deployments to Liberia. His explanation of the seeming inconsistency is bizarre: "The situation in Liberia is significantly different from the situation in Iraq. In Iraq, the administration failed to prove either a credible imminent threat to American interests or an impending humanitarian catastrophe...the situation in Liberia is the exact opposite." Dean is right in that the humanitarian catastrophe in Iraq was not impending; he misses that it was full-blown. In addition, while it appears that the Iraqi threat was exaggerated, it remains far greater than any in Liberia, if only because of its strategic geography.

The real difference, it seems to me, is that the American invasion of Iraq was a greatly self-interested act lacking international support, while an intervention in Liberia was not. Dean's reasoning dismisses the moral and strategic decisions present in the Iraq case, seemingly because they also were independently made and self-interested.

This is a dangerous situation for the United States. While the current administration's imperiousness is unacceptable, it is no more dangerous than Dean's "national guilt." We will not find a solution to U.S. alienation in the surrendering of autonomy to an organization whose decision-making members often not only compete with U.S. interests, but work openly against them.

The best solution for Americans is to elect a government aware and accepting of the United States' unique position as the world's sole superpower, but intelligent and humble enough to use that power wisely: morally, but always in national self-interest. It is time now more than ever to, in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." True, our current president does not know how to whisper, but the solution is not to give the stick away, as Dean would have us think.



Despite the author's arguments, some law students support Howard Dean.

Tauber/Nota Bene

Dean's mistake, however, is in exaggerating the extent to which U.N. members share goals. Unfortunately, the U.N. Security Council is the consummate "post-modern" decision making body, which means it hardly qualifies as one at all. Comprised of disparate and often competing interests, it is difficult to identify any coherent U.N. ideologies other than disagreement, delay, and deconstruction. Even the most basic and cherished American beliefs, such as representative government and personal free-

Deans's credit that he wants to try; it is to his fault that he does not recognize his or the organization's limitations.

International cooperation is only one reason that Dean favors the U.N., however. A second is his deep mistrust of American power and an irrational aversion he holds towards American self-interest. This is best illustrated by Dean's confusing positions on American military intervention, especially in Iraq and Liberia. As is well known, Dean fiercely opposed the American-led invasion of

Communist Chinese Torture In Tibet

By GUALBERTO GARCIA JONES
Staff Writer

If a tree falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?

When Secretary Powell says that our relations with China are better than ever, does it mean that we have officially decided not to listen and not to help neither occupied Tibet nor the people in China struggling for Democracy? It sounds like we are fine with Communist oppression so long as we profit by it. Here are some facts about the metaphorical trees being cut down to finance our economy and Powell's optimism.

Since their 1950 invasion, the Chinese communist government has destroyed about 2000 Tibetan Buddhist monasteries. The Dalai Lama is portrayed as a separatist traitor, and people within Tibet who are found to have any connection with him (i.e. carrying a picture of him, or celebrating his birthday) are commonly imprisoned and tortured. The Communists' claim to Tibet today is as ludicrous as the Soviets' claim to Poland was during the Cold War. As part of their legitimization of the military occupation of Tibet, the Communist government cites, in its official website, the desire to "protect Tibetans from the imperialists." The Communists have protected Tibetan's much like Stalin protected the Ukrainians against the West,

forcing a famine upon them that killed seven million. Adding to the ridiculous Communist historicity claim is the fact that Tibetans are racially and linguistically distinct from the traditional Chinese ethnic groups.

Since 1950 the Communists have killed anywhere from 500,000 to 1.2 million Tibetans by execution, torture, and starvation. The latest Communist plan for agricultural development has forced Tibetans to replace their traditional crops and instead plant export crops. This will destroy their traditional way of life, may cause a devastating famine, and will of course make the Tibetan people ever more dependent upon the government.

The Communists are also in the midst of a major ethnic shifting in Tibet, otherwise known as ethnic cleansing. Every day, more and more Han Chinese arrive in Tibet to stake their claim, a claim that gives them preference over Tibetans. Meanwhile, Communists have also implemented forced sterilization and forced abortion across Tibet. According to the UN Foundation, at least 20 percent of Tibetan women might be unable to reproduce because of forced sterilization. One woman reported that over 80 percent of the women in her village, including herself, had been sterilized. The U.S. State Department has stated that "forced sterilizations are common in Tibet." The propaganda line being given to the West is that China needs to control overpopu-

lation, but actually the population density in Tibet before the massive influx of Han Chinese was among the lowest of any nation. The result of this policy of "ethnic shifting" is that Tibetans are now a minority in their own capital city, and will soon be so in the entire country. Very convenient.

But the cries for help in Tibet are also cries of warning. As of 2000, China was believed to have 19 nuclear ICBM's (inter continental ballistic missiles). Thirteen of them are pointed at U.S. cities, and most of them are located in Tibet.

It is unpardonable to believe that admitting China into the WTO and giving them most-favored-nation trading status is going to make the regime in China any weaker. Just as the UN's oil-for-food program was used to build Saddam Hussein's palaces, the world's trade with China is going towards "re-educating" Tibetans in Soviet style concentration camps called Laogai.

Trees are falling all across Tibet. Do they make a sound? Are we listening?

No, we are buying up the cheap paper made up of the pulp of a destroyed people. This is wrong, and we should not allow the Tibetans to be felled. Americans must begin to resist the Communist government of China and stop buying the products that finance the oppression of Peace loving Tibetans and democratic Chinese. It is up to all of us, not just our

leaders to do this. I urge all of you to do a simple test right now. Look and see how many of the things that are on your person are made in China. Then remember, that if the person who made your shirt, or shoes, or laptop components didn't like Hu Jintao and he spoke up against him, he could be tortured; if he carried a bible or a picture of the Dalai Lama or the Pope, he might be "re-educated". Ask yourself why we boycotted South Africa and we don't boycott China. Join the general boycott against goods made in China. (For more information on this boycott go to www.chinasupport.net and boycottmadeinchina.org)

America needs to take the moral high ground. The Chinese know what it is like to have cell phones and designer clothes now. Now is the time to boycott the Chinese Communist government. If America demands that China give Tibet some autonomy and stop brutalizing dissenters as a condition to trading with us, do you think they would have the guts to ignore us? But first of all, do we have the guts to call China to task? Apparently not, since they have been let into the WTO, given most-favored-nation-status, and awarded the 2008 Olympics. But it is never too late to pressure our government to do the right thing. Freedom is being clear cut right in front of our eyes. Can we be so heartless as to sell out Freedom for money?

OPINIONS

Board Editorials

Library Computers Unacceptably Slow

Students Need Internet Access. At This Point, the Law School Should Provide It At Any Cost

It's now one month into the school year and the law school has yet to provide students with acceptable computer facilities.

Don't blame it on viruses.

Don't blame it on worms.

Don't blame it on constuction.

There are no excuses at this point.

Just fix it.

Dean Young told the SBA at a meeting Sept. 9 that the situation would be resolved in a month, he hoped. That is simply unacceptable. And, it was unacceptable to have this problem in the first place. A solution must come much sooner.

We understand the library computer lab is likely enjoying its final months of existence. The wireless network, the 1Ls' shiny laptops and the new e-mail terminals in the lounges will soon render the old lab obsolete. But that day has yet to come.

Hundreds of 2Ls and 3Ls rely completely on the library lab for computer and Internet access. Students have complained for weeks about the slow Internet connections that render the computers useless, but to no avail. There is simply no acceptable explanation, given that the wireless system, the faculty machines, the machines in classes, and the machines in the journal houses function perfectly well. Most of these other machines go through the same firewall that is supposedly slowing down the library computers, but they all function normally - at least in the relative terms used with computer reliability.

It's not just a luxury to have Internet access at the law school. It's an absolute

necessity. Many professors are now utilizing the web portal and e-mail as a way of communicating with students outside of class. The inability to regularly check the portal and e-mail system makes this communication useless, thereby hindering classes.

Other professors post large PDF files online containing critical class readings. It is impossible for students to spend hours waiting for these PDFs to download and print.

Furthermore, when the Law School closed for Hurricane Isabel, administrators made the announcement via the web portal and an e-mail from Dean Young. For the school to rely so heavily on Internet access but then not provide it is not only laughable, it is, as we have said eight times now, unacceptable.

We understand changes are coming. We know there will be new labs, and we know the old faculty machines will soon replace the obsolete library machines. That's great. But it is also beside the point.

Students need useful Internet access now. They needed it back on August 22. And they will need it next month to register for classes.

It is further insulting that the library staff's a help desk with undergrads who might be helpful but can do little when the network is so ridiculously slow. No one is fooled into believing service is adequate - you can't make up for missing tools with resources to help use them.

Frankly, until the situation is resolved, administrators and staff should open up their offices and machines for student use. It's only fair.

A Continental Divide



Tauber/Nota Bene

The flag near the Law School flies at half-staff on the second anniversary of 9/11.

BY NICK DIETZ
Staff Writer

The recent anniversary of the September 11th hijackings got me thinking about how the reactions to September 11th crystallized the societal rift that has existed in America since the dawn of the Politically Correct age. This divide pits two rival camps against each other: those that think America can do no wrong and those that think she can do no right.

After September 11th, many on the left immediately turned to self-loathing introspection, thinking: "We sure must've done something wrong to make those terrorists hate us so much. How can we make them like us?" This is the same kind of flawed logic of a rape victim wondering what she could have done differently to avoid the attack. The victim is not to blame and should not have to give one moment's thought to her own actions; the same goes for America (at least with respect to pondering the root causes of terrorism); we should, however, feel free to blame ourselves for the incomprehensible security lapses.

On the other extreme from these apologists are the mindless "patriots" of the right who are angrier with France than Saudi Arabia. While it's nice to see Old Glory flapping from the windows and antennae of many a car throughout this great nation, it is getting a little old. If you didn't have the flag up before September 11th, you really don't need to have one up now in order to announce your patriotism. Ironically, one will find a disproportionate number of American flags on cars that used to fly the Confederate flag. I guess it took Osama bin Laden to finally defeat General Lee.

The policies of President Bush are the ideal lightning rod for these two disparate ideological camps. One group opposes the war in Iraq with the same gusto that they opposed the last WTO conference, and the last G-8 meeting, and the last.... On the other hand, there are those who support the Iraq war because of September 11th. Granted, Iraq had nothing to do with September 11th, but they think if the President said they did, it must be true. "Besides the war in Afghanistan wasn't big enough, with not enough purty 'splosions on the TV."

Now I don't have any particular way to get the two sides to agree, sorry to disappoint you. I just think that when

people have opinions, they should actually BE opinions, rather than the mindless spouting of stock phrases like: "No blood for oil" and "These colors don't run." That's what angers me the most about both sides of the American landscape, the fact that no one is really thinking for themselves. I have more respect for the 15 - 20% of Americans who without fail vote "I don't know" on every poll question from "Do you support the war?" to "Do you want fries with that?"

As a public service for the remaining 80-85% of Americans, I have formulated a list of dos and don'ts for expressing one's point of view, or lack thereof.

I want everyone to leave the American flag alone. Stop hiding behind it, wrapping yourself in it, or burning it.

Stop calling someone "unpatriotic" if they persist in inquiring as to the whereabouts of certain weapons of mass destruction. Boycott the Dixie Chicks because their music stinks, not because they insulted the President.

Stop calling someone a "racist" if they feel that airport security should pay more attention to a 25-year-old guy with a one-way ticket to Riyadh than an 85-year-old grandmother flying round-trip from New York to Boca.

Stop making country music songs about September 11th. It's not a coincidence that no New Yorkers are writing songs about it. Yes, I know Bruce Springsteen wrote one, but he's from Jersey, and he also wrote a song trashing the NYPD just a few years ago, so he doesn't count.

Stop treating ground zero like a tourist attraction, smiling and taking pictures in front of it. It is unbelievably disrespectful and makes you look like an idiot. And while you're "visiting" the site, don't even think about buying any World Trade Center snow globes from street vendors. In addition to being extremely tacky, they were made in Taiwan and are being sold illegally, so you're not helping the New York economy.

Now don't get me wrong, I love America. I just hope that sooner rather than later, the majority of Americans will learn to form their own ideas rather than simply agreeing with whichever side has the better jokes. Maybe then they won't hate us.

Nick Dietz is a 3L. He can be reached at ndietz@law.gwu.edu



Tauber/Nota Bene

The library computers sit unused by frustrated students.

OPINIONS

Readers' Forum

Students Speak Out on Graduation

TO THE EDITOR:

Whether or not this is a good idea for future years, the proposed change to the commencement date is simply too late to implement for the upcoming graduation. Since graduation is something that many families plan for far in advance, I know of many students whose families have already made hotel/travel reservations. I am also aware that various other graduations will be held during the proposed weekend, which means that the city will be flooded with visitors (hiking up hotel/restaurant prices), which

many families simply cannot afford (especially after paying to reschedule their original reservations). In addition, I think we have all worked hard enough at law school that we deserve our own separate ceremony and personalized speaker, and those who have worked even harder to deserve awards should receive them at the proper time (in front of friends/family/classmates, since that is half the fun of receiving an award). Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

Stacey Reiser, 3L Day

TO THE EDITOR:

I am very much opposed to holding Graduation on May 16 for a couple of reasons. First, the records office has been telling me for a couple of months that it's going to be on the 23rd. My family has already made reservations and paid for plane fare for that weekend. So, it's a little late to be changing the date. Second, the fewer undergrads around during graduation, the better. This whole neighborhood will be

mobbed on the weekend of the 16th, and it will be far more difficult to get hotels in the area, etc. And finally, I would much rather have the certainty of a law-school speaker. If the problem is that the law school is short on money, and in other words our tuition isn't enough to cover a separate graduation ceremony, then perhaps the recent renovations should have been scaled back.

Adriel Levine, 3L Day

TO THE EDITOR:

It is my preference that the law school graduation date remains as it originally was planned. While I can see some advantages to the move, I feel that the disadvantages outweigh such advantages. One particular concern is that the law school may not seek its own high profile graduation speaker. In discussing this issue with fellow 3L's, most of us are of the opinion that we would not participate in the university-wide ceremony. We do not feel particularly connected with the university as a whole, and feel it would not be something we would attend. Additionally, as law school graduates we look forward to receiving a commencement address from a high profile member of the legal community. I personally would feel cheated if I did not have the chance to be addressed by such a person at graduation, as it is

something I have come to expect at a school like GW.

Also, after 3 years of hard work, I would like to see my fellow classmates recognized for their academic success. The possibility of a June awards ceremony simply is not feasible given the national nature of the student body as well as bar preparation. In addition, concerns about setting aside Memorial Day plans are unfounded, as this year Memorial Day falls on May 31, rather than the 23, when graduation is scheduled.

At the least, the graduation day this year should be left as planned so that we may continue to make travel plans and seek a commencement speaker. I propose that the issue be left open for debate with regards to future classes.

Alyssa Olsen, 3L Day

TO THE EDITOR:

The proposal to change the date of graduation is a ludicrous one, for all the reasons set forward by my fellow students. They do not need to be reiterated; we know them. What is more troubling is that this is symptomatic of the current GW Law administration. We have had deafening silence with regard to the computer problems. We have had deafening silence with regard to when the construction project will be finished. Again, we are met with silence on this issue; it is a wonder our opinions were even solicited and one suspects that we are being presented with a fait accompli. If graduation is preserved, it will have been so grudgingly. Rather than the

Dean agreeing that we are not wrong, after having deposited over \$100,000 into GW's coffers, to insist on a graduation that focuses on us rather than relegates us to a side-show, the administration will feel themselves set upon by ungrateful students. The rumours we've heard about what the Dean now thinks of us are beneath contempt, but perhaps looking after students' interest legitimately comes second to self-aggrandizement. So much, it seems, is done without regard to the students. Is it too much to ask that we at least be given the one bread and circus we want to keep us happy?

Brad Parr, 3L Day

TO THE EDITOR:

Is Dean Young kidding or what? "Advantages" of having a joint graduation with the undergrads? Give me a break! This is a bit like calling the current state of affairs with the computers an upgrade. For whatever reason, whether it was getting a job, an interest in law, or a penchant for masochism, we chose to go to law school. This is a shared experience and we should celebrate our graduation separately. The fact that there is even a suggestion that it ought to be any other way boggles my

mind. Maybe this is what bothered me the most about Dean Young's email. It was an obvious attempt to sell us a bad product that no one wanted so the law school could save a few bucks. What's our tuition for anyway? Pretending the obvious defects in this plan (i.e. a joint commencement speaker) are "advantages" doesn't make the defects go away. They've stolen our flawed but functional computer system. Let's hope they don't steal our graduation too.

Gopal Balachandran, 3L Day

TO THE EDITOR:

My position on changing the date of graduation can be summed up in a few brief points:

1. I do not pay \$30,000 a year to share my graduation weekend with the undergrads. Most other schools have separate graduation weekends.

2. I do not pay \$30,000 a year to share my graduation speaker with the undergrads, no matter how prestigious or meaningful. The speaker is not going to tailor a speech to our future but instead to those who are 21-22 and about to start entry-level jobs or grad school. Some of us are in our late 20s or 30s and well seasoned in the "real world" and don't need that kind of advice.

3. If we do end up moving the date, there is no reason to make parents and us attend two ceremonies. It's annoying and takes away from the celebratory nature of the day. Graduation is incredibly hectic and the more time we have to spend with our families instead of sitting in alphabetical order and commuting to various locations, the better.

4. Additionally, the large break between the end of exams and commencement also functions as a time for people to and move, get settled, and then just come down for the weekend's events. With the new date, that break would be disrupted.

5. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to the move. If it were a matter of fostering GW community or making it easier on families, the decision would have been made at a more appropriate time so that people wouldn't have to alter their plans.

6. Finally, if the Ellipse ceremony gets rained out, what happens to us and to our families who decide to see the undergrad's speaker? Does the ceremony go to the Smith center? If so, how is GW going to fit all of us, all the undergrads, and all families?

Luna Samman, 3L Day

To Submit an Opinion

The *Nota Bene* invites readers' opinions. Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less, signed, dated and include a graduation year or title. E-mail submissions to notabene@law.gwu.edu

To write a longer opinion column, contact Opinions Editor Chris McClintock at cmcclintock@law.gwu.edu

Nota Bene reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar, clarity and vulgarity.

Dean Should Share

TO THE EDITORS:

This will probably shock and awe the law school community, but as a concerned student I feel compelled to report the disturbing truth behind the snail-slow internet connections on the library computers.

It seems that all of the computers in the library, which were once hooked up to blazing T3 connections, are now sharing a single 9600 baud dial-up serial modem purchased on Ebay for \$10. What happened to the blazing T3 connections you ask?

Dean Young has siphoned off and redirected all of the law school's T3 lines directly into his office, where he hosts online computer game tournaments and shares his Bee Gees music collection on Kazaa. Disturbing? Yes. Unexpected? Hardly.

Daniel DeSouza, 3L, Day

Reader "Fires Back"

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the Editor-in-Chief's opinion piece "Just Tell it Like It Is" (Sept. 8th) in the last edition of the *Nota Bene*.

If my learned colleague Mr. Briscoe really believes that in order to "call a spade a spade" he must compare Colin Powell to the Iraqi Information Minister, I think he has been watching way too much "Crossfire."

Lindsay Whitehurst (3L day)

Challenges from the Opinions Editor:

1. The Recording Industry Association of America is suing 12-year-olds to stop file sharing.

Is this a skillful tactic employed by a victimized recording industry, or is it a regime of inappropriate lawyering applied by a bitter industry suffering from its own overpricing?

2. A U.S. District Court ruled that the scenario of teams of suicidal terrorists hijacking commercial airliners and flying them into skyscrapers was a foreseeable occurrence to U.S. airlines, exposing them to liability for deaths caused on September 11, 2001.

Is this realistic or is it a poor means of compensating the victims?

Name That Case Answers

1L - Justice Antonin Scalia, Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

2L - Chief Justice Burger, Diamond v. Chakrabarty (1980)

3L - Justice Harlan, Cohen v. California (1971)

L.L.M. - Justice Seawell, Estate of Wright (1936)

NOT BAD!

M	A	G	I	W	A	S	P	S	S	P	A	T
I	R	O	N	A	L	L	O	T	T	R	I	O
N	E	O	N	G	O	O	D	Y	G	O	O	D
D	A	D	S	E	N	T	A	L	D	A	S	
A	D	O	R	E	S	A	L	E				
G	A	S	E	S	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	R
L	U	G	E	S	C	A	M	S	O	L	E	
O	D	O	R	S	T	O	R	Y	R	O	T	E
G	I	L	S	H	A	L	E	I	D	O	L	
G	O	D	C	H	I	L	D	J	O	H	N	S
R	E	N	E	P	L	A	T	E				
A	N	N	U	L	A	L	A	N	A	I	M	
G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	S	L	O	E
E	L	S	E	A	T	O	N	E	O	T	T	O
D	O	E	R	P	O	S	E	R	T	H	A	W

ODDS AND ENDS

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

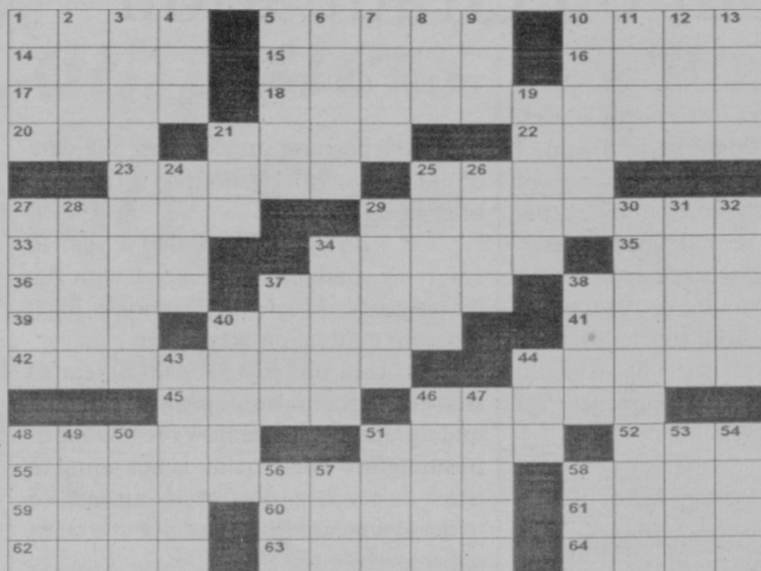
Not Bad!

Across

- 1 Wise Men
- 5 Stingers, e.g.
- 10 Petty quarrel
- 14 Golf club
- 15 Dish out
- 16 Musical group
- 17 Broadway light
- 18 Holier-than-thou
- 20 Pop
- 21 Shipped
- 22 Actor Alan & family
- 23 Idolize
- 25 Garage event
- 27 Oxygen & nitrogen
- 29 Outsider
- 33 Racing sled
- 34 Flimflams
- 35 Barcelona cheer
- 36 Stench
- 37 Follows second
- 38 Memorization by repetition
- 39 Baseball's Hodges
- 40 Sedimentary rock
- 41 A false god
- 42 Baptismal VIP
- 44 Lavatories: Slang
- 45 Actress Russo
- 46 Dish
- 48 Declare invalid
- 51 Actor Ladd
- 52 Objective
- 55 Christian holy day
- 58 _____ gin fizz
- 59 Other
- 60 Repent
- 61 Mr. Preminger
- 62 Go-getter
- 63 Whistler's Mother, e.g.
- 64 Unfreeze

Down

- 1 Obey orders
- 2 Topic
- 3 Excellent
- 4 Hostel



- 5 Stake
- 6 Solitary
- 7 Atlantic City sight
- 8 Pea holder
- 9 Pigpen
- 10 Second base at times
- 11 Urge
- 12 Verdi's creation
- 13 Playthings
- 19 Blowouts
- 21 Distress signal
- 24 Buckskin provider
- 25 Gape
- 26 Soldier's organization
- 27 Hot punch
- 28 Sound
- 29 Reprimand
- 30 Toast part
- 31 Singer John
- 32 Fishing pole attachments
- 34 Old
- 37 Leg bone
- 38 State of disorder
- 40 Ledge
- 43 More primitive
- 44 Ms. Brett: Children's author
- 46 Woodworking tool
- 47 Egg producer
- 48 Matured
- 49 _____ contendere
- 50 Proboscis
- 51 Fusses
- 53 Smidgen
- 54 Garfield's call
- 56 Musical form
- 57 OJ trier
- 58 Drunkard

Quotable Quote

Too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.

... George Burns

By GFR Associates • PO Box 461 Schenectady, NY 12309 • Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Horoscopes

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)

You will find Baja is not so "Fresh."

Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)

Appropriately, you will name the child Isabel.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)

The RIAA will drop its suit after major news outlets mock you for downloading the "Grease" soundtrack.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)

You will meet George Clooney filming "K. Street," but your camera will be out of film.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)

Remember this: contributory negligence. Trust us - it'll come in handy.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)

You will attend your first and last Thirsty Thursday.

Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)

You will find true love. Or is it a penny? The voices are all talking at once.

Aries: (March 21—April 19)

You'll get a job offer you'll regret accepting by June.

Taurus: (April 20—May 20)

John Ashcroft will examine the contents of your computer this week. Again.

Gemini: (May 21—June 21)

In a fit of rage, you will fire the imaginary general manager of your fantasy football team.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22)

Ben Affleck will seek comfort in you as you day dream in class.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)

You will try to access the 2nd floor from the Stockton stairwell.

Answer on page 15

Name That Case

Compiled by Gualberto Garcia Jones

1L-- Row, Row, Row your boat.

"There comes vividly to mind a portrait by Emanuel Leutze that hangs in the Harvard Law School: Roger Brooke Taney, painted in 1859, the 82nd year of his life, the 24th of his Chief Justiceship, the second after his opinion in Dredd Scott. He is all in black, sitting in a shadowed red arm chair, left hand resting upon a pad of paper on his lap, right hand hanging limply, almost lifelessly, besides the inner arm of the chair. He sits facing the viewer, and staring straight out. There seems to be on his face, and in his deep set eyes, an expression of profound sadness and disillusionment."

2L-- Weird Science

"The patentee has produced a new bacterium with markedly different characteristics from any found in nature and one having the potential for significant

utility. His discovery is not nature's handiwork, but his own; accordingly it is patentable subject matter."

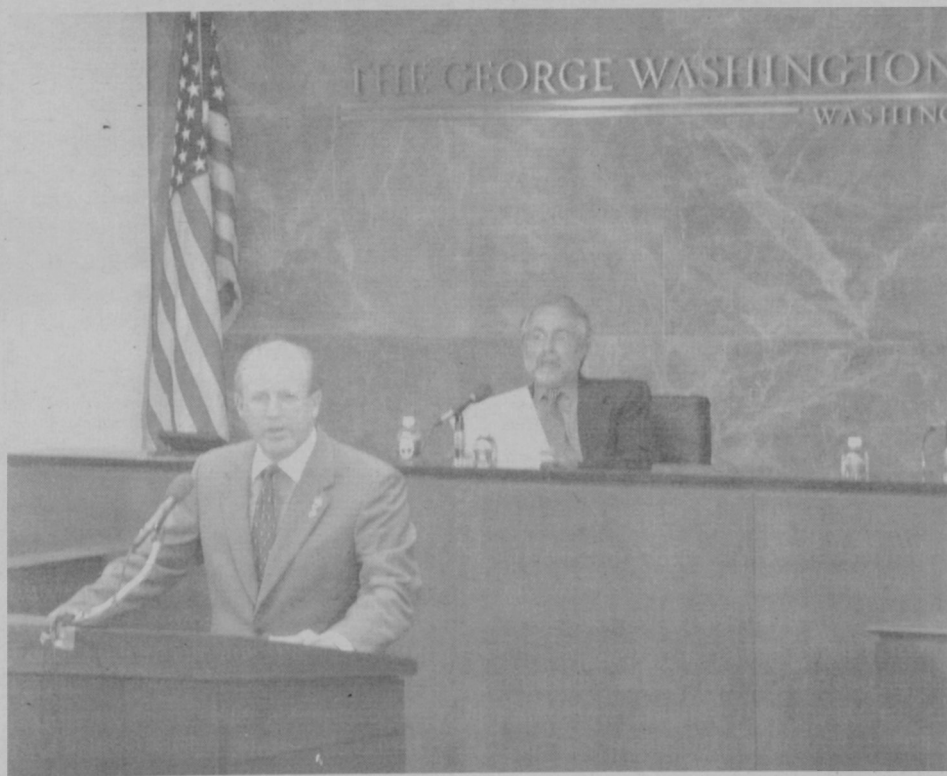
3L-- Legal Drafting

"On April 26, 1968, the defendant was observed in the Los Angeles County Courthouse in the corridor outside [of] the municipal court wearing a jacket bearing the words "F*ck the Draft." There were women and children present in the corridor. The defendant was arrested. The defendant testified that he wore the jacket [as] a means of informing the public of the depth of his feelings against the Vietnam War and the draft."

L.L.M.-- A Beautiful Mind

"The testator had numerous eccentricities and indulged in strange, even bizarre behavior. Several witnesses, expressed the view that the testator was of unsound mind. One witness gave as reasons that he lived in a little shack filled with dirt and junk, that he gave her a fish soaked in kerosene to eat, and that he insisted upon buying her household furniture, which was not for sale. Other witnesses testified that the testator was drunk much of the time, picked up articles from garbage cans and hid them around the house, put paper roses on rose bushes barren of blooms ... held his breath and appeared to be dead in order to scare his neighbors..."

Answers on page 15

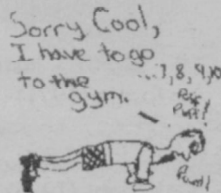


The Hon. David M. Walker, the Comptroller General Of the United States (foreground) addresses the Law School on Tue., Sept. 16.

The Soft Large by Frank Lattuca

Hey Ting, What's Shakin?

We're goin to Lindy's to drink it up! You Comin'?

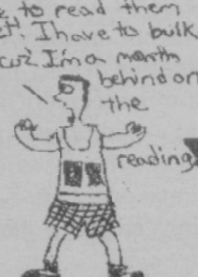


Dude! That's Such a Good Idea! Now, When you go out to Bar Review, all the new HOT 1L Chicks will be helplessly drawn to your Smokin' new Man-Body!



Huh? Oh, no! It's not that at all!

I haven't been able to carry that #@!\$ crate of books home to read them yet! I have to bulk up cuz I'm a month behind on the reading!



©2003